CITY HILIGHTS

The Truth Speaks

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IBC WORLD NEWS
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NK yet to announce schedule for 1st party cong in 5 years P8

Assam-WEF to set up Centre of Excellence: Himanta Biswa P9

Casemiro to depart Manchester United at season's end P11

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BJP'S BIG SOUTHERN PITCH: MODI SOUNDS POLL BUGLE IN TN, KERALA

Kerala, TN eager for political change: PM Modi

Modi dubs Congress 'Muslim League–Maoist', vows to to end 45-year left rule; 'Kerala and Tamil Nadu are awaiting political change'

'Jhande Alag, Agenda Ek': Kerala set for parivartan: PM

THIRUVANANTHAPURAM

Prime Minister Narendra Modi on Friday signalled the BJP's push to expand its footprint in Kerala, declaring that the state was on the cusp of "Parivartan".

Addressing a public rally in the state capital ahead of the upcoming Assembly elections, Modi said the enthusiasm on display reflected a changing political mood in the state.

"Your energy gives me confidence that Kerala will definitely witness Parivartan," he said, adding that Thiruvananthapuram symbolised the aspirations of a new and evolving Kerala.

'Will send Sabarimala gold heist culprits to jail'

The PM said the entire country has deep and unwavering faith in Lord Ayyappa, but alleged that the LDF government in Kerala had repeatedly hurt the traditions of the Sabarimala temple.

Referring to recent reports of gold theft from the shrine, including from the sanctum sanctorum, Modi said such incidents had shaken public faith. He assured that if a BJP government is formed in the state, a comprehensive probe into the allegations will be conducted and those found guilty will be sent to jail. "This is Modi's guarantee," he said.

'BJP civic win extraordinary'

The Prime Minister pointed to the BJP's recent victory in the Thiruvananthapuram Municipal Corporation as evidence of growing public support, calling it "extraordinary" rather than routine.

He said the mandate reflected the people's determination to move away from what he described as the corruption and misgovernance of the ruling Left Democratic Front (LDF) and the opposition United Democratic Front (UDF).

"BJP's victory here is a victory of the resolve to defeat the corruption of both LDF and UDF," Modi said.

More on page 7

PM meets seers from Sivagiri Mutt

Prime Minister Narendra Modi, during his visit to Kerala on Friday, met with seers associated with the Sivagiri Mutt in Varkala. PM Modi was in Thiruvananthapuram today where he flagged off four trains and inagurated a slew of developmental projects In a message posted on his X social media platform, the Minister said that he met with the swamis from the Sree Narayana Dharma Sanghom Trust at Sivagiri Mutt and lauded their contributions to social service, education, spirituality, and community welfare.

'Tamil Nadu will have 'double-engine NDA govt'

CHENNAI

Kickstarting the National Democratic Alliance's (NDA) Assembly election campaign from Madurantakam in Tamil Nadu on Friday, Prime Minister Narendra Modi hit out at the ruling DMK, and said the countdown for its exit has begun and a "double-engine NDA government" will be formed in the State.

Addressing a public meeting in Madurantakam in Tamil Nadu's Chengalpattu district, Modi took several jibes at the DMK, saying the party has betrayed the trust of people and alleged that it is involved in corruption. He said people are calling the "DMK government the CMC (corruption, mafia, crime) government".

"You gave DMK a full majority twice, but they broke the trust of the people of Tamil Nadu. DMK made heaps of promises but delivered zero work. People are now calling the DMK government the CMC government. CMC government means a government that promotes 'Corruption, Mafia, and Crime.' The people of Tamil Nadu have now made up their minds to uproot both DMK and CMC. Here, a BJP-NDA double-engine government is certain to come to power."

He alleged that Tamil Nadu has a government that lacks "democratic values and accountability". "The DMK government serves the interests of a single family rather than the people of the state. Opportunities for advancement within the DMK seem limited, often favouring those connected by dynasty or those willing to engage in corruption, mistreatment of women, or disrespect of our culture," he said.

"As a result, only individuals who are willing to participate in such behaviours are being promoted within the party. This has had serious consequences for Tamil Nadu, as the state suffers from the effects of these actions," he added.

The Prime Minister said the "massive crowd" present here is sending a strong message in Tamil Nadu and the nation. "The message that Tamil Nadu is now ready for a change. The state wants liberation from misrule of DMK and wants the BJP-NDA government," he said. Beginning his address, PM Modi remembered former Tamil Nadu CM MG Ramachandran and also paid tribute to freedom fighter Netaji Subhas Chandra Bose on his 129th birth anniversary.

"In 2026, this is my first visit to Tamil Nadu. A few days ago, the birth anniversary of Bharat Ratna MGR was celebrated. Today is Netaji Subhas Chandra Bose's birth anniversary, and it is celebrated as Parakram Diwas. Courageous freedom fighters fought for independence alongside Netaji. Bravery and patriotism are ingrained in every person of Tamil Nadu," he said.

'Dappa engine' Won't run in Tamil Nadu: Stalin

Chief Minister M K Stalin on Friday mocked the BJP's "double engine" government model as "Dappa engine" and asserted it would not be formed in Tamil Nadu. Responding to Prime Minister Narendra Modi's remarks at the political rally of NDA ahead of the upcoming Assembly elections, Stalin said Tamil Nadu had achieved historical development despite the restrictions imposed by the Centre. "The 'Double Engine' that the Prime Minister speaks of as "Dappa Engine" won't run in Tamil Nadu!," Stalin said in a post on X. "Honourable Prime Minister Sir...Despite all the barriers imposed by the Union BJP government, Tamil Nadu has achieved the kind of development that history speaks of by shattering them," he said. While launching the poll campaign for the NDA ahead of the Assembly election, the Prime Minister said, "we have to free TN from the clutches of the DMK" and batted for a "double engine" government in the state that walks "shoulder to shoulder" with the Centre for Tamil Nadu's growth and progress.

'Democracy is now in exile': Hasina blasts Yunus

NEW DELHI

Though Sheikh Hasina did not appear in person, her speech - broadcast to a packed hall - was sweeping in its rhetoric and unsparing in its characterisation of Muhammad Yunus, whom she repeatedly labelled a "murderous fascist

Ousted Bangladesh Prime Minsiter Sheikh Hasina alleged on Friday that elections next month would not be free or fair, in her first public speech since being sentenced to death in absentia for crimes against humanity.

Hasina (78) fled to neighbouring India in August 2024 after a student-led uprising ended her 15-year, iron-fisted rule, and has not been seen in public since. Her speech is likely to further aggravate ties between New Delhi and Dhaka, which have soured since her ouster.

"Bangladesh stands today at the edge of an abyss, a nation battered and bleeding," Hasina said in English during an audio message broadcast to a packed press club in the Indian capital. "Democracy is now in exile," she said.

In November, Hasina was found guilty by a Dhaka court of incitement, order to kill and inaction to prevent atrocities, and sentenced to be hanged. The activities of her former ruling Awami League, once the country's most popular, have been outlawed.

"Bangladesh must defend and restore the constitution written in the blood of martyrs, reclaim our independence, safeguard our sovereignty, and revive our democracy," Hasina said.

'Yunus a murderous fascist'

In her first address to a public gathering in India since leaving Bangladesh in 2024, Sheikh Hasina launched a blistering attack on Nobel laureate Muhammad Yunus, accusing him of running an "illegal, violent" regime and plunging the country into what she described as an age of terror, lawlessness and democratic exile.

Though Hasina did not appear in person, her speech - broadcast to a packed hall - was sweeping in its rhetoric and unsparing in its characterisation of Yunus, whom she repeatedly labelled a "murderous fascist," "usurer," "money launderer," and "power-hungry traitor."

QUICK READ

CM pays tribute to Bose on birth anniversary

BENGALURU: Chief Minister Siddaramaiah on Friday paid floral tributes to Netaji Subhas Chandra Bose on his 129th birth anniversary in Bengaluru. Earlier, President Droupadi Murmu paid floral tributes to Netaji Subhas Chandra Bose on his 129th birth anniversary, observed as Parakram Diwas, at Rashtrapati Bhavan on Friday. President Murmu also paid tribute to Bose in a post on X, highlighting his influence in the Indian Army during the Freedom Struggle. "On the occasion of Netaji Subhas Chandra Bose's birth anniversary, observed as Parakram Diwas, I offer my humble tribute to this great leader of India's freedom struggle. His call for independence awakened a spirit of courage, self-confidence, unity, and nationalism in the hearts of millions of Indians," the post read.

India, EU likely to announce conclusion of trade talks on Jan 27

NEW DELHI

India and the European Union are expected to announce the conclusion of protracted negotiations for a free trade pact on Tuesday, opening the way for reduced tariffs on European cars and wine and expanded market for Indian electronics, , textiles and chemicals, two Indian and EU government sources said.

The announcement could follow Indian Prime Minister Narendra Modi's meeting with European Council President Antonio Costa and European Commission President Ursula von der Leyen, who will co-chair an India-EU summit during their visit to India from January 25 to 28, one of the Indian government sources said.

If finalised and ratified by the European Parliament, a process that could take at least a year, the trade pact would boost Indian exports such as textiles and jewellery, the official said. Negotiations were relaunched in 2022 after a nine-year pause, gaining traction last year amid rising trade tensions.

In August, US President Trump doubled tariffs on Indian imports to as much as 50%, among the highest in the world.

Fire breaks out at Reddy's model house

BALLARI

A fire broke out at the model house belonging to Janardhan Reddy and Sriramulu. The model house in G Square Layout caught fire and burnt down at around 6:30 pm on Friday.

Former MLA Somashekar Reddy has alleged that the fire was caused by the act of Congress. He had earlier threatened to set the model house on fire when the banner was torn. He has alleged that the model house belonging to us was set on fire to support his statement of that day.

Some people ran after setting fire. They fled when they went to catch them. A layout was made in an area of one hundred acres. A model house was built to show to potential buyers, Someshakhar Reddy said.

PANDEMIC-FUNDING EFFECT

'Too China-centric': US exits WHO, ending major global role

WASHINGTON

The US has officially withdrawn from the World Health Organization (WHO), leaving the UN agency without one of its biggest donors.

US President Donald Trump signed an executive order signalling the withdrawal a year ago, having criticised the organisation for being too "China-centric" during the Covid pandemic. The US Department of Health and Human Services said it took the decision due to the WHO's alleged "mishandling" of the pandemic, an inability to reform and political influence from member states.

The WHO has rejected these claims and its director general Tedros Adhanom Ghebreyesus said the withdrawal was as a loss for the US and the world.

The organisation pointed to its global efforts to combat polio, HIV aids, maternal

mortality, and its international treaty on tobacco control.

In the wake of the pandemic, WHO member states worked to create an international pandemic treaty designed to prevent, prepare for, and respond to future pandemics, including sharing vaccines and drugs more fairly. The treaty was finally agreed in April last year by all WHO member states, apart from the US.

Washington has traditionally been one of the biggest donors to the WHO, but has not paid its fees for 2024 and 2025, which has already caused huge job losses at the organisation.

Although WHO lawyers suggest the US is obliged to pay the arrears - estimated at $260m (£193m) - Washington said it saw no reason to do so.

It said that all US government funding to the WHO has been terminated, US personnel and contractors have been recalled from the WHO HQ in Geneva, Switzerland and its offices worldwide, and hundreds of US engagements with WHO have been suspended or discontinued.

HC lifts ban on bike taxis, directs govt to issue permits

BENGALURU

The Karnataka High Court on Friday lifted the ban on bike taxi services in the state, overturning an earlier order by a single judge that had supported the state government's decision to stop such operations.

A division Bench allowed appeals filed by app-based ride aggregators such as Ola and Uber. The court held that motorcycles can be used as transport vehicles, provided they follow existing laws and rules.

Licences mandatory for bike taxi ops

The court clarified that bike owners or aggregators must apply for the required licences to run bike taxi services. It also directed the state government to issue permits, per the law, once applications are submitted.

More on page 2

QUICK READ

Youth Killed in Gruesome Truck-Bike Collision on NH

Udupi

A devastating road accident on National Highway near Uppoor KG Road in Udupi district resulted in the instant and gruesome death of a young motorcyclist on Friday morning. The victim has been identified as Abhishek, a resident of Matapadi in Brahmavara. According to reports, a 14-wheeler truck struck the motorcycle from behind or the side, causing the rider to come under its wheels. Brahmavara police personnel rushed to the location upon receiving information. With the help of local social worker NityanandaOlakadu, the remains were carefully extricated and shifted to Ajjarkadu district hospital for post-mortem examination and further formalities. The truck driver has been detained for questioning, and the vehicle has been impounded. Police are investigating the exact cause—whether due to over-speeding, driver negligence, poor visibility, or mechanical failure—and have registered a case under relevant sections of the Motor Vehicles Act and IPC for causing death by rash and negligent driving.

Two-Wheeler Rider Injured in Collision with Auto-Rickshaw

Udupi

A road accident in Manipal left a two-wheeler rider injured after his motorcycle was struck by an auto-rickshaw at a junction. The victim has been identified as Prasad ShridharHegde, who was travelling on a motorcycle from the Manoligujji side towards Udupi. Near the Golikatte junction, an auto-rickshaw coming from the cross road suddenly entered the main path and collided with the motorcycle. The impact caused Prasad to suffer abrasions and other injuries at the scene. He received immediate first aid and medical attention. Manipal police reached the spot promptly, documented the accident, and registered a case at their station. They are investigating factors such as right-of-way violation, speed, or lack of attention by either driver. Both vehicles sustained damage, and statements from the auto driver and any witnesses are being recorded as part of the probe.

Man Ends Life in Arekere After Parents Urge Him to Quit Drinking

SHIVAMOGGA

A 35-year-old man in Arekere village near Holehonnur committed suicide by hanging himself from a tree in his areca nut plantation, reportedly after a painful confrontation with his parents over his severe alcohol addiction.The deceased has been identified as Mallikarjun, a resident of the village.

According to preliminary information, Mallikarjun was a chronic alcoholic. His parents had been repeatedly advising and urging him to quit drinking, concerned about its impact on his health and family life. The persistent admonitions deeply affected him emotionally.

On the day of the incident, overwhelmed by feelings of hurt and distress, Mallikarjun went to his own areca nut garden and used a rope to hang himself from a tree.Family members or locals discovered the body later.

Holehonnur police were informed and reached the spot promptly. They have registered a case of unnatural death and are conducting a detailed investigation, including recording statements from family members and neighbours to understand the sequence of events and any contributing factors.

The body has been shifted for post-mortem examination as per procedure. Police have not ruled out any angle at this stage and are treating it as a suspected suicide linked to personal distress arising from family pressure over his drinking problem.

Housewife Duped of ₹2 Lakh Gold Chain in 'Cleaning Powder' Scam

SHIVAMOGGA

Two conmen posing as vendors of silver/gold cleaning powder tricked Ratnavati of Chennekoppa village into handing over her 31-gram gold chain, applied chemicals to darken it, then vanished with the jewellery

Two fraudsters executed a well-known "gold cleaning powder" swindle in Chennekoppa village under Anandapura taluk, making off with a woman's valuable gold chain in broad daylight on Tuesday, January 20.

The victim, Ratnavati, a resident of the village, was approached around 2 pm by a man aged 35–40 who claimed to sell a special white powder for cleaning utensils. Moments later, a second man joined, offering a red-coloured powder supposedly for cleaning silver and gold ornaments.

The duo convinced Ratnavati to remove the gold chain she was wearing (weighing about 31 grams and valued at roughly ₹2 lakh, made four years ago). When she hesitated, they insisted on demonstrating the powder's effectiveness. They applied it to the chain, which immediately turned black—creating the illusion that the jewellery was fake or tarnished.

They then asked her to fetch a bowl, poured water into it, added turmeric powder, and instructed her to place the blackened chain inside, claiming it would be restored in a short while. While Ratnavati was focused on the bowl, the two men quickly left the house on a bike and disappeared.

When she later poured out the water to check, the chain was missing—completely gone from the bowl. Realising she had been robbed, Ratnavati immediately alerted the family and rushed to the Anandapura police station to lodge a complaint.

Additional Superintendent of Police Ramesh Kumar S. and Anandapura PSI Praveen visited the spot for inspection and spot verification. A case has been registered at Anandapura police station under relevant sections for cheating, theft, and criminal conspiracy.

Police are examining local CCTV footage (if any), gathering descriptions of the suspects and the bike, and questioning neighbours for possible leads. This modus operandi—using chemical powders to darken gold and then swapping or vanishing the jewellery—has been reported in several parts of Karnataka in recent years, often targeting trusting housewives during daytime hours.

Authorities have appealed to the public to remain cautious of unsolicited vendors offering quick cleaning or repair solutions for jewellery.

"Akka Pade" Awareness Drive Conducted to Empower Women and Children

CHIKKAMAGALURU

In a proactive step to enhance public safety and community awareness, the Chikkamagaluru District Police recently conducted an impactful outreach program under the flagship Akka Pade initiative.The campaign focused on educating students, commuters, and residents about key safety resources and helplines available for women and children.

The drive, prominently featured in a social media update from the official Chikkamagaluru Police account, involved interactive sessions held at colleges, bus stands, schools, hospitals, and other public locations across the district.

Women police personnel played a central role, engaging directly with young girls and community members to build trust and encourage reporting of any concerns.Key helplines highlighted during the program included 181 — Women Helpline for immediate assistance, 1098 — Childline for child protection and support, 112 — Emergency response services, and 1930 — Cybercrime reporting helpline.

Participants were seen in group interactions, with pink safety patrol vehicles adding visibility to the effort. The sessions aimed to raise awareness on gender safety, child protection, legal rights, and preventive measures against harassment, exploitation, cyber threats, and other risks.

Akka Pade meaning "Elder Sister Force", a women-led initiative under the Karnataka Police and Women & Child Development Department, has gained momentum statewide since its broader rollout in late 2025 and early 2026. Inspired by successful local models (notably from districts like Bidar), the program combines on-ground patrolling in sensitive areas, rapid response to distress calls involving women and children, and widespread community education to foster a safer environment.

On January 22, the AkkaPade had patrolled the bus stand, market, temple and parks in Shivamogga city to ensure the safety of girls.

District Superintendent of Police and other officials have emphasized that such outreach builds stronger police-community bonds while empowering vulnerable groups. Similar AkkaPade drives have been rolled out in districts including Udupi, Shivamogga, Mandya, and others, with dedicated teams of women Home Guards and police personnel actively involved.

Nursing Home Staffer Ends Life After Viral Expired Medicine Video

KARWAR

Rajeev Pikale, a senior employee at Pikale Nursing Home in Karwar, succumbed to intense mental distress and took his own life with a double-barrel gun in front of the tulsi plant at his Ankola home, days after a secretly recorded video accusing him of dispensing expired medicines went viral on social media

A tragic incident in Uttara Kannada district has once again spotlighted the destructive power of viral social media content, as a dedicated nursing home employee took his own life amid intense online criticism.

RajeevPikale, a long-serving staff member in the medicine dispensing section at the well-known Pikale Nursing Home in Karwar, was found dead at his residence in Aversad village, Ankola taluk. He reportedly shot himself with a double-barrel gun in the courtyard in front of the family's tulsikatte.

The sequence began about 15 days earlier when an unidentified patient's relative secretly recorded a video alleging that Rajeev had dispensed expired medicines. The clip quickly spread across social media platforms, attracting widespread condemnation, abusive comments, and character assassination. Despite Rajeev publicly clarifying that any error was unintentional and offering an apology, the relentless trolling and reputational damage reportedly plunged him into severe depression over the past two weeks. Close associates noted he appeared deeply withdrawn and distressed in recent days.

On Friday, while alone at home, he ended his life. Neighbours rushed to the scene after hearing the gunshot but found him already deceased.Ankola police immediately visited the spot, recovered the firearm, registered a case of unnatural death, and initiated an investigation. The body was shifted for post-mortem examination.

The incident has left the local community and healthcare circles in mourning. Many have expressed sorrow that a person known for his sincerity and years of service was driven to such despair by a single viral video and the ensuing public shaming.

This case echoes similar tragedies where individuals faced unbearable mental pressure from online outrage, like the recent one in Kerala, prompting renewed calls for stricter laws against cyberbullying, responsible social media usage, and greater mental health support in the face of digital shaming.

Married Youth Hangs Himself in Rental Home After Wife Leaves

UDUPI

A married young man in Kaup taluk took his own life by hanging in his rented house, an incident linked to chronic alcoholism and ongoing marital discord.The deceased has been identified as Nithesh, who lived with his wife Ashmitha in a rented accommodation near a college in Padugrama village, Polipu area.

Nithesh reportedly had a severe drinking habit. He frequently returned home intoxicated and argued with his wife. On January 7, he went to the bakery where Ashmitha worked and created a scene, escalating their conflict. Deeply hurt by the incident, Ashmitha left for her elder sister's house in Brahmavara.

Left alone in the house, Nithesh continued living by himself. Between 2:30 pm on January 21 and 9:45 am on January 22, he used a choodidar stole to hang himself from a wooden ceiling hook in the house.

The body was discovered later that morning. Kaup police have registered a case of unnatural death and are continuing their investigation to confirm the sequence of events and rule out any foul play. A post-mortem examination has been conducted, and statements from family members and neighbours are being recorded.

Elderly Man Threatened with Death Over Son's Purchased Land

UDUPI

An elderly man in Shirva village has alleged criminal trespass, property damage, and grave death threats over a piece of land purchased by his son.

The complainant is Lawrence (71), a resident of Nayidaddu in Shirva. His son and daughter-in-law had bought 46 cents of land in Survey No. 397/A2 in the village, got it surveyed, and installed boundary stones along with fencing around the plot.

On the evening of August 8, 2025, when Lawrence visited the site to inspect it, he reportedly found Jesinta Mendonca (49), also a resident of Nayidaddu, had illegally entered the property. She is accused of destroying the boundary markers and stealing the valuable fencing materials.

Furthermore, the woman allegedly confronted him directly, threatening that if he or anyone from the family came to the land again, she would not let him leave alive. She also warned that she would not allow any access to the property in future and would continue destroying boundary markers.

Lawrence filed a private complaint in court detailing these allegations. Based on the complaint, Shirva police have registered a case under relevant sections of the Indian Penal Code for criminal trespass (Section 447), mischief (Section 427), theft (Section 379), and criminal intimidation (Section 506), among others.

The investigation is underway, with police recording statements from the complainant, witnesses, and the accused. They are also examining the site for evidence of damage and removal of fencing materials. No arrests have been reported yet, but the case has drawn attention in the village due to the serious nature of the threats and the involvement of family-disputed property.

₹6.36 Lakh Siphoned from Engineer's Bank Accounts via UPI Fraud

UDUPI

A civil engineer in Udupi became the latest victim of a sophisticated UPI-based banking fraud, losing a combined sum of ₹6,35,900 from two different bank accounts in a single night.

The victim, Chetan Kumar, a resident of Doddanagudde, maintains accounts with Bank of Baroda in Manipal and Karnataka Bank in Kunjibettu. He had linked the same mobile number to both accounts for transaction alerts.

On the night of January 20, starting around 7:30 pm, multiple unauthorised UPI transactions were executed in quick succession. A total of ₹4,39,500 was siphoned from his Bank of Baroda account, while ₹1,96,400 was transferred out of his Karnataka Bank account—bringing the overall loss to ₹6,35,900.

Chetan became aware of the fraud only when he received successive SMS alerts from both banks notifying him of the outgoing transfers. By the time he checked, the money had already been moved to unknown accounts.

He immediately approached CEN Police Station and lodged a formal complaint. Police have registered a case under relevant sections of the Indian Penal Code (cheating, criminal breach of trust, and forgery) as well as provisions of the Information Technology Act related to digital fraud.

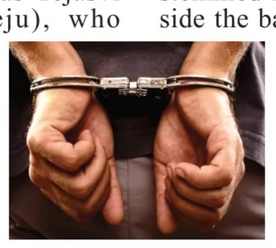
Investigators are now examining transaction trails, IP addresses, device IDs, and beneficiary account details in coordination with the banks' cyber cells. The case is being treated as cyber-enabled financial fraud, and efforts are underway to freeze the recipient accounts and trace the perpetrators.

Authorities have reiterated warnings to the public to enable two-factor authentication, avoid sharing OTPs, and regularly monitor bank statements and SMS alerts, especially after any suspicious calls or messages claiming to be from banks.

4 Arrested Bar Cashier Murder Case

CHIKKAMAGALURU

Chikkamagaluru city police have made a major breakthrough in the murder of a bar cashier by arresting four suspects on Thursday, January 22.The victim was Tejasvi (also called Teju), who worked as a cashier at a bar on Market Road.



On the night of January 20, he was allegedly assaulted inside or near the bar premises. The attackers reportedly beat him severely, dragged him nearly 1 km, and abandoned him on a nearby ground. Some reports mention firecrackers were thrown at him while he lay injured.

The next morning (January 21), an auto-rickshaw driver spotted Teju still breathing on the ground and rushed him to a hospital. Despite medical efforts, he succumbed to his injuries that afternoon due to the extent of the trauma.

The arrested accused are Rudra from Kolkata, VeeraShekhar from Andhra Pradesh, Vini from Tumakuru, and Hanumanth, a local resident.

Police believe the assault stemmed from a dispute inside the bar that turned violent.Chikkamagaluru City police station registered a murder case under relevant sections of the Indian Penal Code. The accused have been taken into custody, and interrogation is ongoing to establish the exact motive, sequence of events, and roles of each individual.

The investigation team is also collecting forensic evidence, CCTV footage, and statements from bar staff and eyewitnesses.The swift arrests have brought some relief to the local community, which was shocked by the brutality of the crime against a young worker.

Tourism Stakeholders Convene to Tackle Key Challenges

UDUPI

Authorities in Udupi district organized a focused gathering to examine the significant hurdles confronting those involved in the local tourism industry. The session, conducted at the DC's office, aimed to pinpoint effective measures that could be implemented to foster long-term progress in the field.

During the discussions, attendees were instructed to establish dedicated working groups composed of key participants. These teams are tasked with developing and presenting well-organized proposals to enhance ongoing efforts toward environmentally responsible and viable tourism practices across the district. As part of the proceedings, the Udupi District Tourism Department's annual calendar was formally unveiled, providing a structured overview of upcoming events and initiatives to support the sector's advancement.

QUICK READ

DK District announces series of programmes for Republic Day

Mangaluru

The Dakshina Kannada district administration has announced a series of major public programmes and civic events scheduled between January 25 and 29, including infrastructure inaugurations, Republic Day celebrations, cultural activities, and administrative measures to ensure public order. The Mahakali Padpu Railway Underpass in the city will be inaugurated on January 25 at 4.30 pm, with the District In-charge Minister scheduled to attend the programme. Earlier the same day, the district administration, in collaboration with the Dakshina Kannada Zilla Panchayat and the Department of Animal Husbandry and Veterinary Services, will organise the Kudla Dog Show at the Lalbagh Karavali Utsava Grounds from 2 pm. The District In-charge Minister is expected to visit the venue at 5 pm.

Republic day –Speaker to participate

Mangaluru

The district-level Republic Day celebrations will be held on January 26 at 9 am at Nehru Maidan. Assembly Speaker U.T. Khader will be present, while District In-charge Minister Dinesh Gundu Rao will hoist the national flag and deliver the Republic Day address. A ceremonial parade and cultural programmes by school and college students will follow.

Prohibitory orders for State exams

Mangaluru

In view of examinations conducted by the Karnataka Examinations Authority on January 25, prohibitory orders have been imposed within a 200-metre radius of four examination centres under the Mangaluru City Police Commissionerate limits. Deputy Commissioner of Police Mithun H.N. said the restrictions are aimed at ensuring smooth and transparent conduct of the exams.

Pilikula to be open on Jan 26

Mangaluru

All units of the Pilikula Nisargadhama—including the zoo, regional science centre, planetarium, lake garden, botanical museum, and heritage village—will remain open to visitors on January 26 despite the public holiday. As part of the Karavali Utsava, a Food Festival will be held at Kadri Park from January 30 to February 1, showcasing the diverse coastal cuisine. The organisers said the event aims to promote local and traditional food culture. In another development, the Kundapur Lions Club has donated garbage bins to the Pilikula Development Authority to promote cleanliness and environmental protection.

Koti-Chennaya double track Kambla on 24-25

Puttur

In view of the 33rd Koti Chennayya Jodukere Kambala at Puttur on January 24 and 25, the Deputy Commissioner has ordered the closure of all bars, wine shops, and liquor outlets in Puttur city from 6 am on January 24 to midnight on January 25 to maintain law and order.

HC Order Prompts New Rules for E-Auto Operations in M'luru

District administration moves to regulate battery-operated autorickshaws in city limits to ease traffic congestion

MANGALURU

In compliance with an order issued by the Karnataka High Court in a related case, the Dakshina Kannada district administration has decided to introduce fresh regulations governing the operation of battery-operated autorickshaws in Mangaluru city, with the objective of easing traffic congestion and streamlining public transport.

According to the decision, all battery-operated autorickshaws that have been operating without route permits between January 20, 2022, and October 30, 2025, as well as those plying within the designated Zone-1 limits of the city, will be required to apply to the Regional Transport Authority (RTA) for permits. Permits will be granted subject to compliance with specific conditions laid down by the authorities.

As per the new norms, permit holders operating within Zone-1 must paint their e-autorickshaws square-shaped blue and obtain a unique identification number from the police department. This measure is aimed at easy identification and effective enforcement.

Applicants are also required to submit a residential proof certificate confirming a minimum of five years of residence within the jurisdiction of the Mangaluru City Corporation. Authorities have clarified that individuals who already hold conventional autorickshaw permits within the city limits will not be eligible for e-autorickshaw permits. Further, only one e-autorickshaw permit will be issued per person.

The notification specifies that applicants must possess a valid autorickshaw driving licence and badge. It is mandatory for permit holders to personally operate the e-autorickshaw, ruling out the possibility of leased or proxy operations.

The Deputy Transport Commissioner, in an official notification, has directed eligible applicants to submit their applications to the RTA in the prescribed format. Applicants have been advised to complete all legal and administrative formalities and obtain the permits at the earliest.

Officials said the move is expected to bring better regulation to the rapidly growing e-autorickshaw sector while ensuring smoother traffic flow in the city.

Dandupalya Gang Accused Arrested After 29 Years

MANGALURU

After remaining absconding for nearly 29 years, a notorious member of the Dandupalya gang wanted in connection with a 1997 double murder case under the jurisdiction of Urwa Police Station has been arrested by Mangaluru police in Andhra Pradesh.

The accused, identified as Chikka Hanuma alias Chikka Hanumanthappa (55), a native of Dandupalya village in Hoskote taluk of Karnataka, was apprehended at Madanapalle in Annamayya district of Andhra Pradesh by a special team from the Urwa Police Station. He was produced before the court, which remanded him to judicial custody.

The case relates to a brutal double murder that took place around midnight on October 11, 1997, when members of the infamous Dandupalya gang allegedly broke into a house named Anwar Mahal near Urwa Marigudi Cross in Mangaluru taluk. During the incident, the gang allegedly murdered Ranjith Vegas (80) and Lewis D'Mello (19) and fled after looting gold ornaments.

The prime accused in the case included Doddahanuma (Hanumavenkatesh), Chandramunikrishna (Krishna), and Nallathimma (Timma), all known associates of the Dandupalya gang. A trial court had earlier convicted five accused and awarded the death penalty, which was later set aside following appeals before the High Court. Based on subsequent directions, the case was re-examined, leading to acquittals in certain instances. However, police said the case against Chikka Hanuma was never disposed of, and he continued to evade arrest.

Police records show that Chikka Hanuma, listed as Accused No. 6 in Crime No. 113/1997 registered under Sections 460, 396, and 400 of the IPC, had been absconding since 1997. To avoid arrest, he allegedly changed his name to Chikka Hanumanthappa K. Krishnappa and lived in Andhra Pradesh without appearing before the court. In 2010, the JMFC Second Court in Mangaluru had issued a long-pending warrant against him. Police sources said the accused is involved in around 13 murder and robbery cases across Karnataka, and further investigation is underway to gather more details.

The arrest operation was carried out by a team led by Urwa Police Inspector Shyam Sundar H.M., along with PSI Gurappa Kanti, PSI L. Manjula, ASI Vinay Kumar, and police personnel Lalithalakshmi, Anil, Pramod, Atmananda, and Harish.

Mangaluru City Police Commissioner praised the officers for the successful operation and has recommended them for higher rewards to the Director General and Inspector General of Police, Karnataka.

Restored Pumpwell Kalasha to Be Inaugurated at Mahaveer Circle on Jan 24

MANGALURU

The newly restored Kalasha at Mahaveer Circle near Pumpwell, a prominent landmark welcoming visitors to Mangaluru, will be inaugurated on Saturday, January 24, at 5.30 pm. The reinstatement of the iconic structure has brought a sense of joy among residents, who see it as a revival of a cherished cultural symbol of the city.

Once a major visual marker of Mangaluru, the Pumpwell Kalasha was removed in 2016 during the construction of the Pumpwell flyover. Efforts to restore the structure have been steadily progressing over the past few months. The renovation work formally commenced on October 25 last year and has been carried out under the supervision of the Jain community.

The restoration project has been undertaken under the leadership of the Mangaluru Jain Society (Regd.). The inauguration will be performed by Dharmasthala Dharmadhikari Dr. D. Veerendra Heggade, while Dakshina Kannada District Central Cooperative Bank president and Karnataka State Cooperative Marketing Federation chairman Dr. M.N. Rajendrakumar will preside over the programme. Assembly Speaker U.T. Khader will unveil the name plaque.

Members of Parliament Capt. Brijesh Chowta, MLA D. Vedavyas Kamath, MLC Ivan D'Souza, former MUDA chairman K. Suresh Ballal, and former local corporator Sandeep Garodi will attend the event as chief guests. Elaborate preparations have been made to ensure a grand inauguration.

Mahaveer Circle, considered the gateway to Mangaluru, reflects the coastal region's cultural heritage. The Kalasha, designed in the form of a Poornakumbha symbolically welcoming visitors, has emerged as a striking visual feature.

Its reinstatement, with enhanced grandeur, has restored the circle's identity.

Located at a junction that connects Mangaluru to Kerala, Kasaragod, Bengaluru, Madikeri, Chikkamagaluru, and Dharmasthala, Mahaveer Circle is an unavoidable passage for travellers entering the city. The Kalasha has long served as a visual cue signalling arrival in Mangaluru.

The Mangaluru Jain Society and the Jain community played a key role in completing the project, coordinating with the district administration and the city corporation to obtain necessary approvals. The circle has been fitted with decorative lighting, granite works, and protective railings.

The Kalasha and circle development project, showcasing coastal cultural aesthetics, has been completed at a cost of approximately ₹25 lakh. With the work now complete, Mahaveer Circle stands once again as a proud cultural symbol of Mangaluru, drawing the attention of residents and visitors alike.

National Integration Camp Begins in Moodbidri

MOODBIDRI

Bharat Scouts and Guides, with local partners, kick off a five-day national camp fostering unity, leadership and cultural exchange

A five-day National Integration Camp organised by the Bharat Scouts and Guides National Headquarters, Bharat Scouts and Guides Karnataka State Association, Dakshina Kannada District Association, local Moodbidri units and Alva's Education Foundation began on Thursday at the Scouts and Guides Kannada Bhavana in Moodbidri.

The camp was inaugurated by Nagma Farooki, Deputy Superintendent of Police, Mangaluru Traffic Division, who extended her best wishes to the participants and organisers. Vivek Alva, Managing Trustee of Alva's Education Foundation, presided over the inaugural function and unveiled the official logo of the National Integration Camp.

The event was attended by senior Scouts and Guides leaders including Bablu Goswami from Bharat Scouts and Guides National Headquarters, M. Prabhakar Bhat, State Organising Commissioner of the Karnataka Association, B. Mohammad Tumbe, District Scout Commissioner of Dakshina Kannada, and Pratim Kumar K.S., District Secretary. Also present were camp assistants Janardhan Chakravarthy (North Bengaluru), Dr. Narayan G.D. (Hassan), and representatives from across the State and beyond.

State Chief Commissioner P.G.R. Sindhiya participated in the ceremony through an online address and conveyed his greetings to all attendees.

The camp has drawn robust participation from across India. A total of 345 participants from nine states are attending, including 237 from Karnataka, along with 18 from Eastern Railways, 25 from Haryana, and groups from Kendriya Vidyalaya Sangathan (10), Navodaya Vidyalaya Samiti (10), Madhya Pradesh (16), Tamil Nadu (10), North Central Railways (13) and Rajasthan (6). In addition, there are 15 camp assistants, 12 Rover Scouts, and 372 volunteers supporting the event.

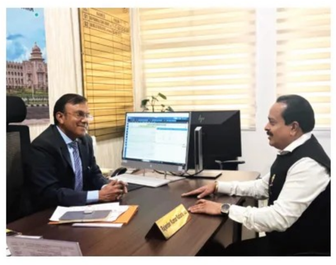
The National Integration Camp aims to strengthen unity in diversity, develop leadership and community service skills, and promote cultural exchange among Scouts and Guides from across the country. Participants will take part in a variety of activities designed to build teamwork, discipline and national spirit throughout the camp.

Puttur MLA urges Revenue Department to issue circular for reconsideration of thousands of rejected house-site title claims

Ashok Rai Seeks Review of Rejected 94C, 94CC Land Title Applications

PUTTUR

Puttur MLA Ashok Rai has urged the Revenue Department to issue a circular for the re-examination of applications filed under Sections 94C and 94CC, which were rejected despite being submitted under government schemes meant to provide house-site ownership rights to the poor.



Rai submitted a memorandum to Rajendra Kumar Katharia, Additional Chief Secretary of the Revenue Department, seeking a review of the rejected applications. The MLA met the senior official in Bengaluru on Friday and discussed the issue in detail.

Sections 94C and 94CC were introduced to regularise ownership and grant title deeds to beneficiaries occupying house sites, many of whom belong to economically weaker sections. However, a large number of applications submitted under these provisions were rejected by the Revenue Department citing various reasons.

According to the MLA, around 4,800 applications from the Puttur Assembly constituency alone had been rejected earlier.

Due to this, beneficiaries have been unable to obtain legal ownership documents for the land on which their houses stand. Most of the applicants are poor families who continue to live without any official records for their house sites.

Rai said applications that were rejected without proper disposal by the Revenue Department should be taken up again for review. He requested that a circular be issued directing officials to re-examine such cases and ensure justice to genuine beneficiaries.

The Additional Chief Secretary reportedly assured the MLA that appropriate action would be initiated in this regard.

"Applications submitted earlier under Sections 94C and 94CC need to be reconsidered. They were rejected for various reasons.

Preliminary information suggests that nearly 4,800 applications were turned down. Poor families who have built and lived in houses on these sites deserve ownership rights. I have urged the department to issue a circular for re-examination, and I am confident that it will be done soon," Ashok Rai said.

The MLA said his efforts to secure justice for the poor would continue, stressing that land title deeds are crucial for social security and dignity.

'Kadle Bajil', a Collection of Tulu Writings, Released at Kadri Jatre

MANGALURU

The book "Kadle Bajil", a collection of Tulu writings by noted Haridasa, cultural organiser, Bhajana and Keertana exponent, narrator and columnist Sharath Shetty Padupalli, was released on January 21, coinciding with the auspicious Rathotsava day of the Kadri Sri Manjunatha Jatre Mahotsava.

The release ceremony was held at the Kadri Temple premises, drawing writers, artistes and admirers of Tulu literature and culture. The book brings together a series of short reflective writings rooted in the everyday experiences, traditions and cultural life of the Tuluva community.

Senior writer Rupakala Alva, who has penned the foreword to the book, spoke about the content and relevance of Kadle Bajil. She said the collection vividly portrays the joys and struggles of daily life, festivals and rituals, village fairs, and nostalgic memories of childhood. "These writings reconnect readers with the simple flavours of life once enjoyed by the Tuluvas. Reading this book is like relishing the familiar taste of kadle bajil from earlier days," she remarked.

Sudhakar Rao Pejavara, convener of Mallika Kala Vrinda, congratulated the author and said that, much like Sharath Shetty's Harikatha performances, the book reflects moral values and practical wisdom drawn from lived experiences. He described the work as a meaningful literary contribution that blends cultural insight with social reflection.

The book by writer and Harikatha exponent Sharath Shetty Padupalli captures everyday life, festivals and childhood memories of Tuluva culture

The programme was attended by Kushalakshi V. Kulal Kanvatirtha, a noted Tulu litterateur, along with members of the association of senior women writers and readers, artists, and cultural enthusiasts.

Author Sharath Shetty Padupalli expressed his gratitude to the temple authorities, organisers and readers for their encouragement and support.

Kadle Bajil is priced at ₹200. Interested readers can purchase the book by contacting 9845960051 via WhatsApp.

QUICK READ

B'luru-WB Amrit Bharat Express from Jan 24

Bengaluru

The city's second Amrit Bharat Express, which will run between SMVT Bengaluru and Alipurduar Junction in West Bengal, will start its commercial service Saturday. Prime Minister Narendra Modi flagged off the special inaugural run of the service from Malda last week. The non air-conditioned train, running weekly, will consist of 22 coaches. Train number 16597 will depart from SMVT Bengaluru at 8.50am every Saturday and reach Alipurduar Jn at 10.25am Monday. On the return journey, Train No. 16598 will leave Alipurduar Jn at 10.25pm every Monday and reach SMVT Bengaluru at 3am Thursday.

Auto driver returns woman's purse with iPhone

Bengaluru

The work of an auto driver who brought back a woman's abandoned purse and iPhone has been praised everywhere. A woman from North India had booked an auto through Rapido in the Kothanur police station limits of Bengaluru. After traveling, she got off the auto and forgot her purse and iPhone. After some time, she realized that she had forgotten her purse and mobile and informed the police. When the Kothanur police called the woman's number, the auto driver responded and returned the mobile phone and purse to the young woman. The woman and the police personnel praised the auto driver for his work.

Man dupes woman he met on matrimonial app of ₹ 50L

Bengaluru

A man was arrested after he was accused of cheating women by posing as a potential groom on matrimonial apps. He would target women, gain their trust, and then cheat them of their money. Vijay Raj Gowda would use fake documents and court papers to convince his victims that he needed money for various reasons, including bank account issues. He allegedly extracted around Rs 50 lakh from one victim. The police have registered multiple cases against Vijay, including one in North CID, and have frozen his bank accounts. He has a history of similar crimes, with cases registered against him in Kunigal, Vidhana Soudha, and Kengeri police stations.

HC lifts bike taxi ban, directs government to grant permits

The court directed bike owners and aggregators to apply for licences, and instructed the state government to issue permits in accordance with existing laws

Continued from page 1

Aggregators are also free to submit fresh applications, which must be processed following the court's observations; The blanket ban came into effect on June 16, 2025.

The Karnataka High Court on Friday lifted the ban on bike taxi services in the state, setting aside an earlier single-judge order that had upheld the Siddaramaiah government's prohibition.

A division bench headed by Chief Justice Vibhu Bakhru and Justice CM Joshi allowed appeals filed by aggregators, including Ola, Uber and Rapido, ruling that bikes can be used as transport vehicles subject to legal permissions.

The court dismissed the April 2025 ban order and directed bike owners and aggregators to apply for licences, and instructed the government to issue permits in accordance with existing laws.

The court said that while the state can examine all relevant aspects of applications, it cannot refuse taxi registration simply because the vehicle is a motorcycle.

"Taxi owners are allowed to apply to register motorcycles as transport vehicles or contract carriages, and the state must consider these applications in accordance with the law. Aggregators are also free to submit fresh applications, which must be processed following the court's observations," the order said.

The state's blanket ban on bike taxi services came into effect on June 16, 2025.

The state government had enforced the ban following a High Court verdict that upheld an earlier government order declaring platforms like Rapido, Ola, and Uber Moto illegal, citing the absence of a clear regulatory framework.

At the time, the aggregators appealed to Chief Minister Siddaramaiah and Congress MP Rahul Gandhi, urging immediate intervention to halt the ban, warning that it would jeopardize livelihoods and disrupt affordable daily commutes for millions.

Two months later, however, bike taxi operator Rapido resumed services in August 2025 without court approval, prompting the Karnataka State Private Transport Association to file a formal complaint, alleging that the company's actions amounted to contempt of court.

Lifting of bike taxi ban evokes mixed reactions

The High Court of Karnataka's lifting of the bike taxi ban has drawn mixed reactions, even as the detailed judgment has not yet been made public. While ride-hailing firms Rapido and Uber welcomed the judgment, the Federation of Karnataka State Private Transport Associations raised questions over whether personal two-wheelers can be allowed as bike taxis until the Transport Department devises a policy. Federation president S Nataraj Sharma said the court had directed the State to register motorcycles as transport vehicles and grant them contract carriage permits. However, it is not clear if personal motorcycles (with white boards) can operate as can operate as bike taxis in the interim, he noted. "We'll have clarity once the full judgment becomes available, he added. Welcoming the court's decision, Uber stated the ruling would bring relief to lakhs of drivers who depend on bike taxis for their livelihood. "Bike taxis serve as a vital mobility lifeline for Indian cities, offering people an affordable and convenient way to navigate traffic. The decision will also bring relief to lakhs of drivers who depend on it for their livelihood," the spokesperson added. "We look forward to engaging with the state government on operationalising this mobility ecosystem and serving the mobility needs of our cities across the spectrum," a company spokesperson said in a statement. A Rapido spokesperson termed the judgment "progressive.

Appoint nodal officer to prevent child begging: HC

BENGALURU

The High Court has directed the state government to appoint a nodal officer to coordinate with the concerned departments to prevent child begging and formulate a comprehensive action plan for their rehabilitation.

A division bench comprising Chief Justice Vibhu Bakhru and Justice CM Poonachha heard a public interest litigation filed by Let's Kit Foundation seeking directions to the government to identify children involved in begging and bring them into the mainstream of society.

The bench, after hearing the arguments, directed the state government and the GBA to submit a status report on the total beggar cess collected by the urban local bodies and panchayats of the state, including the GBA, the amount paid to the Central Relief Committee, and the remaining amount. It directed the government to appoint a nodal officer to coordinate with the concerned departments to prepare the action plan and adjourned the hearing to April 1.

During the hearing, the Additional Advocate General submitted the certificate submitted by the Chief Accountant of the Greater Bengaluru Authority regarding the collection of beggar cess to the court. Accordingly, Rs. 86.26 crores were collected in GBA in 2024-25. Beggar cess was collected, out of which Rs. 10.32 crores were paid to the Central Relief Committee (CRC). In the current year, Rs. 73.12 crores have been collected so far. Now there are 5 new corporations in GBA, last year's balance is Rs. 75 crores. He informed that the Commissioners of the respective corporations have been directed to pay the beggar cess share of this year to the Central Relief Committee by March 31.

The information about the cess collected in the panchayats is yet to come from the Rural Development Department. In the survey conducted by the authority, 720 children who were engaged in begging were identified. Some recommendations have been suggested for rehabilitation, he brought to the notice of the court.

'If Cong changes project name, it is a virtue, but if we do, it is a sin'

BENGALURU

The state Congress government is feeling frustrated that the shop of corruption will be closed due to the VB Ji Ram Ji scheme.

There are two steering wheels in the Chief Minister Siddaramaiah government. However, the engine is missing. This has set back development projects, said Union Agriculture and Rural Development Minister Shivraj Singh Chouhan, sarcastically.

He was speaking at a press conference ahead of a workshop organized for all the MLAs of the alliance on the VB Ji Ram Ji scheme, which was implemented by the Centre after the abolition of the MNREGA.

There is a fear that Congress will close its shop of corruption due to Ramji's scheme. Due to the chair fight in the current government, there are two steering wheels and no engine. Therefore, even though Ramji has given a guarantee of work, Siddaramaiah does not understand, he said.

The incident that took place in the joint session of Karnataka has tarnished the reputation of democracy. It was impossible to read the Governor's speech. The Congress is lying on the MNREGA issue. It has become like a lying machine. They have blamed the Centre to cover up their failure, they said.

The current work day has been increased to 125. For this, Rs 1,51,282 crore has been allocated for this project. There are 2.86 lakh gram panchayats and villages. The gram panchayat has not taken away its power. Instead, the Vikasita Bharat Yojana has been decided by the gram sabha itself. All the work done in the villages, including the irrigation project, can be done. There is a system to provide work to the workers for 60 days during the monsoon season. Farmers urgently need workers. We will provide those workers. The Congress cannot tolerate this, he said.

The Congress had earlier named the NREGA scheme as Jawahar Rozgar Yojana. It had removed Jawahar and changed it to NREGA. Now we have changed it by naming it after Vikasita Bharat Ram Ji. If the Congress does it, it is a meritorious act. If we do it, is it a sin, he asked.

Cabinet approves Centre for Applied AI for Tech Solutions in B'luru

BENGALURU

The Cabinet has approved the establishment of a Centre of Excellence in Artificial Intelligence named Centre for Applied Artificial Intelligence Technology Solutions (CATS) to accelerate the adoption of Artificial Intelligence (AI) across various sectors, Industry 4.0 innovation and digital transformation.

The centre will be set up under the Department of Electronics, IT, Biotechnology and Science and Technology, Government of Karnataka. The centre will be set up at a total cost of Rs 20 crore over four years at the KIONIX site in HSR Layout, Bengaluru, in partnership with the National Software and Services Corporation (NASSCOM).

The financial assistance to be used for setting up the centre will be in the form of a 40:40:20 contribution from the Union Ministry of Electronics and Information Technology (MeitY), the Government of Karnataka and industry partners. This AI Centre of Excellence will focus on priority areas including artificial intelligence, robotics, automation, supply chain optimization and digital transformation.

This aims to strengthen the innovation ecosystem in the state by providing necessary support to startups, MSMEs, industrial firms, research institutes and academic institutions Over the next four years, the centre is expected to set up state-of-the-art laboratories and testing facilities, support deep-tech start-ups and facilitate proof of concepts, industry collaborations and technology uptake.

This is Karnataka's deep-tech decade, and this center of excellence will act as a springboard for deep-tech startups and industrial collaborations. By bringing together government, academic institutions, and industry, we are forging a new path from research to market-ready innovation, said Science and Technology Minister Priyank Kharge.

This initiative will enable collaboration between government departments and state-owned enterprises, as well as global technology and leading industries. The key performance indicators of the Centre include the number of startups supported/nurtured, prototypes developed, applications for intellectual property filed, industry collaborations and skilled professionals trained, with annual growth targets to ensure results.

The proposal to set up the centre has received approval from the Finance Department and in-principle approval from the Planning Department. The decision is a significant milestone in Karnataka's journey towards becoming a leading hub in the country for Industry 4.0 technologies and deep-tech innovation, the Minister said.

More cases come to light against man arrested for defrauding woman

BENGALURU

More cases have come to light for the accused who was arrested on charges of defrauding a young woman he met through the matrimonial website Matrimony, claiming that his wife was his older sister.

It has come to light during police interrogation that he has been defrauding many people for the past 8 years by claiming to be a former MP. A zero FIR was registered against accused Vijay Raj Gowda at Kadugodi police station on the complaint of a young woman alleging that he had cheated her of lakhs of rupees by promising her marriage. The case was transferred to Kengeri police based on the place where the crime was committed. After investigation, the accused was arrested and further interrogation revealed that he had been defrauding many people since 2019, police said.

Cases have been registered against the accused in various police stations including Kunigal, Attibele, Shivamogga, and Kadugodi. He had introduced young women through matrimony and pretended to do big business. In one case, the police informed that he had mastered the art of defrauding the complainants by showing documents that the money was frozen and demanding money.

He has received lakhs of rupees from each and every one. In a recently registered case, the police said that he had duped a young woman of Rs 1.53 crore by introducing his wife as his elder sister.

The accused had convinced me that former MP D.K. Suresh was a close friend of his and would award me the tender. A case was registered at Kunigal police station for cheating me by using a fake signature and seal while promising to award a vehicle contract to Tata Power DDL Company. Similarly, he had cheated a young woman by promising to sell a cement factory under the jurisdiction of Anekal police station and return the money.

GBA invites public inputs for first-ever budgets

BENGALURU

As five new city corporations prepare their first budgets under the Greater Bengaluru Authority, Bengaluru South and North corporations have invited citizens, RWAs and NGOs to submit suggestions for the 2026-27 financial year.

With preparations under way for the first-ever budgets of the five newly formed city corporations under the Greater Bengaluru Authority (GBA), the Bengaluru South City Corporation and Bengaluru North City Corporation have opened the door for public participation by inviting budget suggestions for the 2026-27 financial year.

In a press release, the two corporations said inputs are welcome from resident welfare associations (RWAs), individual citizens and non-governmental organisations (NGOs). The move is aimed at shaping citizen-focused budgets at a time when the new urban governance structure is taking its first steps.

INFRA REFUSES TO MOVE ON

1.5k vehicles added daily, but road network stuck at 2015

BENGALURU

While the city's expansion has forced town-planners scurrying back to the drawing board every other year, Bengaluru's road network has remained almost static at 13,000 km over the past decade, a period in which the number of vehicles has nearly doubled and the public transport fleet remained the same. Bengaluru roads are buckling under the weight of its own growth, pushing traffic to the crawl-mode across large swathes of the city.

Transport department data shows that registered vehicles in Bengaluru shot up from 64.4 lakh in March 2015 to more than 1.2 crore by December 2025, a staggering 90 percent jump. Around 1,500 new vehicles continue to be added every day, worsening an already strained traffic situation. With GST incentives kicking in, the number of new vehicles joining the already-busy roads is expected to rise further in this financial year.

A foretaste of this scenario came from October with average 2,700 vehicles hitting roads in that month. In December 2025, the trend continued with 53,398 new vehicles being added on average, 1722 a day, much more than the usual. Private vehicles dominate the surge. Of the total fleet, over 1.1 crore vehicles are privately owned, with two-wheelers and cars accounting for the lion's share.

Two-wheeler numbers doubled from 41.8 lakh to 84.6 lakh, while car registrations similarly climbed from 14.2 lakh to nearly 24.4 lakh during the decade under review.

Bengaluru currently has just 96 km of operational Metro lines with 83 stations, while the city's bus fleet stands unchanged at about 7,000 buses far too less, almost diminutive, for a metropolis of its size, sprawl and growth potential.

Power outage in Chitradurga today

CHITRADURGA

Residents of Saraswathipuram, Depot Road, District Hospital, Jogimatti Road, Karuvinakkatte Circle, Teachers Colony, Buddha Nagar Stadium Road, Prashanth Nagar, and Kote areas will face a power outage on January 24. The Chitradurga Nagar Sub-Division Unit One plans to shift the KV Marg located near the Diploma College.

Electricity will be suspended from 10 am to 6 pm to carry out the work safely. Consumers have been requested to cooperate and make necessary arrangements during the outage. Authorities urged the public to avoid using high-load appliances during this period to prevent inconvenience.

HDK to join farmers protest against Bidadi project

RAMANAGAR

Former Chief Minister and Union Minister H.D. Kumaraswamy will join farmers in an overnight sit-in protest on January 25, opposing the proposed Bidadi Smart City project, said former MLA A. Manjunath on Friday.

Addressing a press conference at Bidadi, Manjunath said the government plans to acquire thousands of acres of fertile land that farmers have protected for generations. He said Kumaraswamy would stand with the farmers and support their struggle against forced land acquisition.

Farmers from Kanchugaranahalli Bagad in Byramangala will join the protest along with their families on Sunday. He urged progressive organisations, pro-farmer groups, Kannada organisations, thinkers, and JDS workers to participate in large numbers.

Manjunath alleged that officials with vested interests are using police pressure to silence farmers who oppose the project. He claimed women raising concerns were threatened, and said he would reveal details about such officials during the protest.

He said 3,409 families fall under the project, but only 300 to 400 families have agreed. Despite this, authorities are falsely claiming full consent.

He warned that if a final notification is issued, a legal battle will follow.

Questioning finances, Manjunath said the government lacks funds even for city roads. He warned that if the project continues, farmers will launch stronger protests to protect their land and livelihoods.

Several local leaders and farmer representatives were present at the press meet. The leaders said the movement reflects growing anger in rural areas and called for dialogue respect transparency, warning that development without consent harms democracy unity peace justice and the future of farming communities across Ramanagar district.

People first planning urged for K'taka Budget

CHITRADURGA

State Decentralization Planning and Development Committee Vice Chairman D.R. Patil said upcoming state budget plans must reflect the real needs, feelings, and hopes of ordinary people, not just decisions made in big cities.

Speaking at an interaction meeting with elected representatives and officials of local bodies at the city's G.P. Hall, he stressed that planning should begin at the grassroots. He said Chief Minister Siddaramaiah has opened the door for villages and towns to directly shape development plans instead of depending only on Bengaluru or Delhi.

Patil said Panchayat Raj institutions must be strengthened to make Mahatma Gandhi's dream of Gram Swaraj a reality. Gram Sabhas, he said, are powerful democratic platforms, and their decisions cannot be changed even by the Chief Minister or Prime Minister. Local bodies should function like true village governments. He directed officials to spread awareness about the powers of Gram Sabhas and ward meetings by distributing pamphlets to every home before Republic Day. He expressed hope that Chitradurga would become a model district in people-led planning.

Deputy Commissioner T. Venkatesh said a major development blueprint is ready for the drought-hit district. Water from the Bhadra Upper Project is expected within months, which may boost farming. Plans also include better use of mineral resources and social justice programs.v

Journalists take voter's oath in Chitradurga ceremony

CHITRADURGA

As part of National Voter's Day celebrations, District Press Officer B.V. Tukaram Rao administered the voter's oath to press department staff and journalists on Friday. The ceremony took place at the office of the Information and Public Relations Department. Several media personnel participated, including P.M. Venugopal, M.J. Boresha, R. Thimmashetti, retired employee S. Chandrasekhar, apprentice Muddu Kiran, and journalists Gounahalli Govindappa, S.T. Naveen Kumar, S.B. Ravikumar Ugrana, Veeresh V. Appu, Omkaramurthy, and Anand Alaghatta. Participants pledged to uphold their responsibility as voters, promoting democratic values and awareness ahead of upcoming elections in the district.

Chitradurga autorickshaw owners must carry documents

CHITRADURGA

Autorickshaw, cab owners in Chitradurga district and city have been instructed to operate only with valid documents, Regional Transport Officer Bharat M. Kalisinghe said. Required papers include vehicle insurance, air pollution control certificate, owner's passport, qualification certificate, and drivers' license and badge. Vehicles must display an identification number issued by the police and operate within their taluk, hobli, or district limits. All documents must be validated by the end of January 2026. During joint checks by the Transport and Police Departments, vehicles or drivers found without proper documents will be fined, seized, and penalized under Section 200 of the Motor Vehicles Act.

CHANGE OF NAME

I, RUDRESH KUMAR D A S/o DONNERA AKANTHA R/o No 09, Samruddhi Nilaya, Manjunatha Medical Cross, Near Siddhartha International School, Indranagara, Doddabidarakallu, Nagasandra, Bengaluru, Karnataka-560073, have changed the name of my minor son ADVIK D.R aged 4 years and he shall hereafter be known as NISHVIK D.R.

CHANGE OF NAME

I, VITHAL RAO S/o PRALHAD RAO KULKARNI, R/o H No 1-11, Near Grama Panchyatha Office Road, Bhankur, Shahabad (Rural), Chitapur Gulbarga, Karnataka585228, have changed my name and shall hereafter be known as VITHAL RAO KULKARNI.

NAME CHANGE

I, **RAKESHA S R**, S/o Rangegowda, resident of Hirisave Hobali, PO: Sabbanahalli, Sub District: Channarayapatna, Hasan, Karnataka-573124, Have Changed My Name to **RAKESH S R**, Vide Affidavit Dated 23.01.2026 before Notary MEER HASSAN, Bengaluru.

NAME CHANGE

I, **RITHESH VENKATACHALA REDDY**, S/o. Venkatachala, Resident of No.37, Sorahunise, Varthur Post, Bengaluru-560087, have changed my name to **RITESH VENKATACHALA REDDY**, S/o. VENKATACHALA REDDY, Vide Affidavit Dated: 19.01.2025 before notary A.M. RAJASEKAR, Bengaluru.

PUBLIC NOTICE

Notice is hereby given to the public at large that Sri. Mahadevprasad, K.K S/o Late. Karya Swami, aged about 24 years, residing at Kappasoge Village, Hullahalli Hobli, Nanjangud Taluk, Mysuru District, has lost the original registered Sale Deed bearing Document No.433/1996-97, Book No-1, dated 17.05.1996, in the Office of the Sub-Registrar, Nanjangudu, Mysore District Any person or entity having any claim, right, title, lien, interest, or objection whatsoever in respect of the Schedule Property covered under the aforesaid documents is hereby called upon to notify the undersigned Advocate along with relevant supporting documents, if any, within 7 (seven) days from the date of this publication, failing which it shall be deemed that the title to the said property is clear and marketable and that there are no claims, rights, or objections from any person or entity.

SCHEDULE PROPERTY : All that piece and parcel of site bearing Site No. 17, property bearing No.1414/1057/1051/17, PID No. 152200535042001346, situated at Hullahalli Village. Hullahalli Hobli, Nanjangud Taluk, Mysuru District, measuring East to West: 12.192 Sq. Mtrs and North to South: 9.144 Sq. Mtrs, Total measuring 111.48 5q. Mtrs, presently within the jurisdiction of HullahalliGrama Panchayath, Nanjangud Taluk, Mysuru District and bounded on the: East by: Site No. 18, West by: Site No. 16, North by : Road, South by: Site No. 30

Sd/- Harisha.H.L., Advocate, B1, 1st Floor, Kenchappa Building, Saraswathipuram. Mysore-570009 Ph. No:8861428632

Government of Karnataka
CHIEF EXECUTIVE OFFICER
Bengaluru Rural Zilla Panchayat
Beerasandra, Devanahalli, (T) Email:ceoruralzp5@gmail.com.

No. BRZP/PS/CR-92/2025-26 Date : 23.01.2026

TENDER NOTIFICATION
(Through e-Procurement Portal only)

The Zilla Panchayat, Bangalore Rural has invited Tender in the prescribed form as per the Standard tender document KG from the reputed firms for the procurement of the Equipment's. The details of the KG Tender Notification, Schedule, Specifications are available in the website **kppp.karnataka.gov.in.** The cost of the Tender document is as per e-procurement portal NORMS.

SL NO	Tender No	Description	EMD	Tender Due Date
01	Tender No RDPR/2025-26/ IND13310	Supply Of Various Materials and Equipments to Schools, Anganavadi, PHC, Library and Hostels in Bangalore Rural District under Zilla Panchayat Untied Grants	Rs.285000.00	03.02.2026 4:00 PM

The above items will be procured under two cover system and the conditions for two cover systems is also uploaded in the website. Blank Tender Documents can be down loaded from **kppp.karnataka.gov.in.** Last date and time for **uploading the tender on 03-02-2026 up to 4.00 p.m. The Technical bid will be opened as per portal. The Financial bid will be opened as per portal** in the Tender Committee. Further details can be had from the office of the undersigned during working hours **Help Desk 91-8046010000, +91-8068948777 support@eprochelpdesk.com.** The Chief Executive Officer reserves the right to accept or reject any or all the tenders without assigning any reasons.

Sd/-
Chief Executive Officer
Bangalore Rural Zilla Panchayath

DIPR/CP/Shirdi Sai/5187/2025-26

KARNATAKA HOUSING BOARD
3rd Floor, Cauvery Bhavan, K.G. Road, Bengaluru - 560009.

Tender Notification
(Through Karnataka Public Procurement Portal only)

Karnataka Housing Board invite tenders from the eligible Pre qualified contractors & willing to Pre qualify in Karnataka Housing Board through Karnataka public procurement portal for below mentioned works.

Last date for submission of bid: 23.02.2026 upto 4.00 PM

Sl.No.	Name of the work
1	Development of Sites and Services Scheme at Block-26 in Suryanagar Phase 4 at Konasandra and Bommandahalli Village, Jigani Hobli, Anekal Taluk, Bengaluru. **Work Indent & IFT No.:** KHB/2025-26/OW/work_indent 693 & IFT No.139/2025-26 Date: 23.01.2026. **Amount put to tender :** Rs. 22,42,89,866/-
2	Development of Sites and Services Scheme at Block-27 in Suryanagar Phase 4 at Konasandra and Bommandahalli Village, Jigani Hobli, Anekal Taluk, Bengaluru. **Work Indent & IFT No.:** KHB/2025-26/OW/work_indent 694 & IFT No.140/2025-26 Date: 23.01.2026. **Amount put to tender:** Rs. 19,22,34,649/-

For further information, contact below mentioned office address: Executive Engineer, Karnataka Housing Board, Cauvery Bhavan, Bengaluru. Telephone No: 080-22273511/080-22100077, Website: **https://kppp.karnataka.gov.in**

DIPR/CP/5198/AKAR/2025-26

Sd/- Executive Engineer, Karnataka Housing Board, Bengaluru

ಪಟ್ಟಣ ಪಂಚಾಯಿತಿ ಕಾರ್ಯಾಲಯ, ನ್ಯಾಮತಿ
(ದಾವಣಗೆರೆ ಜಿಲ್ಲೆ) Phone: 08188-265000

ಕ್ರಮಾಂಕ: ಪಪಂನ್ಯಾ/ತಾಂತ್ರಿಕ/ಸಿಆರ್/04/2025–26 ದಿನಾಂಕ: 21/01/2026

ಇ–ಪ್ರೊಕ್ಯೂರ್‌ಮೆಂಟ್ ಟೆಂಡರ್ ಪ್ರಕಟಣೆ

ಪಟ್ಟಣ ಪಂಚಾಯಿತಿ ನ್ಯಾಮತಿ ವ್ಯಾಪ್ತಿಯಲ್ಲಿ 2025–26 ನೇ ಸಾಲಿನ ಮುಖ್ಯಮಂತ್ರಿಗಳ ಮೂಲ ಸೌಕರ್ಯ ಯೋಜನೆಯ ಅನುದಾನದಲ್ಲಿನ ಕಾಮಗಾರಿಗಳ ಅನುಷ್ಠಾನಕ್ಕಾಗಿ ನೊಂದಾಯಿತ ಅರ್ಹ ಗುತ್ತಿಗೆದಾರರಿಂದ ಕರ್ನಾಟಕ ಸಾರ್ವಜನಿಕ ಸಂಗ್ರಹಣೆಗಳಲ್ಲಿ ಪಾರದರ್ಶಕತೆ ಅಧಿನಿಯಮ 1999 ಮತ್ತು ನಿಯಮಗಳು 2000 ರಂತೆ ಈ ಕೆಳಗಿನಂತೆ ಕಾಮಗಾರಿಗಳನ್ನು (KW-3 and KW-4) ನಿಯಮವಳಿಗಳಂತೆ ಟೆಂಡರ್ ಕರೆಯಲಾಗಿದ್ದು, ಗುತ್ತಿಗೆದಾರರು (https://kppp.karnataka.gov.in) ನಲ್ಲಿ ಟೆಂಡರ್ ಸಲ್ಲಿಸಬಹುದಾಗಿರುತ್ತದೆ. ಹೆಚ್ಚಿನ ಮಾಹಿತಿಗಾಗಿ ಈ ಕಛೇರಿಯಲ್ಲಿ ಸಂರ್ಪಕಿಸಬಹುದು.

ಕಾಮಗಾರಿಯ ಹೆಸರು:– 2025–26 ನೇ ಸಾಲಿನ ಮುಖ್ಯಮಂತ್ರಿಗಳ ಮೂಲ ಸೌಕರ್ಯ ಯೋಜನೆ:– (1) CONSTRUCTION OF CC ROAD AND CC DRINAGE FROM NEHARU ROAD TO SHIVANANDAPPA COLLEGE ENTERNCE IN TP NYAMATHI (DMA/2025-26/OW/WORK_INDENT53696) ಟೆಂಡರ್‌ಗಿಟ್ಟ ಮೊತ್ತ:–150.00 ಲಕ್ಷ. ಇಎಂಡಿ ಮೊತ್ತ:– 1,90,300/– ಕಾಲಾವಧಿ:– 6 ತಿಂಗಳು

(2) CONSTRUCTION OF CC ROAD AND CC DRINAGE FROM KODIKOPPA ROAD TO THUMBHU HALLA ROADIN TP NYAMATHI (DMA/2025-26/OW/WORK_INDENT54287) ಟೆಂಡರ್‌ಗಿಟ್ಟ ಮೊತ್ತ:–100.00 ಲಕ್ಷ. ಇಎಂಡಿ ಮೊತ್ತ:–1,68,700/– ಕಾಲಾವಧಿ:– 6 ತಿಂಗಳು

(1) ಅರ್ಜಿ ಸಲ್ಲಿಸಲು ಕೊನೆಯ ದಿನಾಂಕ: 04–02–2026 ಸಾಯಂಕಾಲ 5.30 ರವರೆಗೆ (2) ಟೆಂಡರ್ ತಾಂತ್ರಿಕ ಬಿಡ್ ತೆರೆಯುವ ದಿನಾಂಕ: 06–02–2026 ಬೆಳಗ್ಗೆ 11.00 ರಂದು ತೆರೆಯಲಾಗುವುದು. (2) ಆರ್ಥಿಕ ಬಿಡ್ ತೆರೆಯುವ ದಿನಾಂಕ: 09–02–2026 ಬೆಳಗ್ಗೆ 10.30 ರಂದು ತೆರೆಯಲಾಗುವುದು.

ಸಹಿ/– ಆಡಳಿತಾಧಿಕಾರಿಗಳು, ಪಟ್ಟಣ ಪಂಚಾಯಿತಿ, ನ್ಯಾಮತಿ.

ಸಹಿ/– ಮುಖ್ಯಾಧಿಕಾರಿಗಳು, ಪಟ್ಟಣ ಪಂಚಾಯಿತಿ, ನ್ಯಾಮತಿ.

ಪಾಸಾಇ/ದಾವಣಗೆರೆ/670/ಕೆಎಸ್‌ಎಂಸಿಎ/2025–26

ಕರ್ನಾಟಕ ಸರ್ಕಾರ
ಕಾರ್ಯಪಾಲಕ ಅಭಿಯಂತರರ ಕಛೇರಿ
ಪಂಚಾಯತ್ ರಾಜ್ ಇಂಜಿನಿಯರಿಂಗ್ ವಿಭಾಗ, ಮಂಡ್ಯ.
ಸಂಖ್ಯೆ:ಕಾಅ:ಪಂರಾಇಂವಿ:ಮಂಡ್ಯ:ಟೆಂಪ್ರ:ಸಇಂ–2:2025–26/2815
ದಿನಾಂಕ:21.01.2026

ಟೆಂಡರ್ ಪ್ರಕಟಣೆ ಸಂಖ್ಯೆ:49/2025–26

ಕರ್ನಾಟಕ ಸರ್ಕಾರದ ರಾಜ್ಯಪಾಲರುರವರ ಪರವಾಗಿ, ಕಾರ್ಯಪಾಲಕ ಅಭಿಯಂತರರು, ಪಂಚಾಯತ್ ರಾಜ್ ಇಂಜಿನಿಯರಿಂಗ್ ವಿಭಾಗ, ಮಂಡ್ಯರವರಿಂದ ಮಳವಳ್ಳಿ ವಿಧಾನ ಸಭಾ ಕ್ಷೇತ್ರಕ್ಕೆ ಸಂಬಂಧಿಸಿದಂತೆ ಮುಖ್ಯ ಮಂತ್ರಿಗಳ ಮೂಲಸೌಕರ್ಯ ಅಭಿವೃದ್ಧಿ ಯೋಜನೆಯಡಿ ಅನುಮೋದನೆಯಾಗಿರುವ ಟೆಂಡರ್‌ಗೆ ಇಡಲಾದ ಮೊತ್ತ ಗರಿಷ್ಟ ರೂ.84.74ಲಕ್ಷ, & ಕನಿಷ್ಟ ರೂ. 38.10ಲಕ್ಷ ಮೊತ್ತದ ಒಟ್ಟು 22 ಕಾಮಗಾರಿಗಳಿಗೆ ಲೋಕೋಪಯೋಗಿ ಇಲಾಖೆಯಲ್ಲಿ ನೋಂದಾಯಿತ ಅರ್ಹ ಗುತ್ತಿಗೆದಾರರಿಂದ ದ್ವಿಲಕೋಟೆ ಪದ್ಧತಿ ಪ್ರಕಾರ ಐಟಂವಾರು ಟೆಂಡರ್‌ಗಳನ್ನು ಅಹ್ವಾನಿಸಲಾಗಿದೆ. ಟೆಂಡರ್‌ಗಳನ್ನು https://kppp.karnataka.gov.in kppp portal ಆನ್‌ಲೈನ್ ಮೂಲಕ ಸಲ್ಲಿಸತಕ್ಕದ್ದು. ಟೆಂಡರ್‌ಗಳನ್ನು ಸಲ್ಲಿಸಲು ನಿಗಧಿಪಡಿಸಿದ ಕೊನೆಯ ದಿನಾಂಕ:09.02.2026ರ ಸಂಜೆ 4.00ಗಂಟೆವರೆಗೆ. ಹೆಚ್ಚಿನ ವಿವರಗಳಿಗಾಗಿ ಕೆ.ಪಿ.ಪಿ.ಪಿ ಪೋರ್ಟಲ್ ಅಥವಾ ಕಾರ್ಯಪಾಲಕ ಅಭಿಯಂತರರು, ಪಂ.ರಾ.ಇಂ.ವಿಭಾಗ, ಮಂಡ್ಯರವರ ಕಛೇರಿಯಲ್ಲಿ ಸಂಪರ್ಕಿಸಿ ಪಡೆಯಬಹುದು.

ಸಹಿ/–ಕಾರ್ಯಪಾಲಕ ಅಭಿಯಂತರರು, ಪಂ.ರಾ.ಇಂ.ವಿಭಾಗ, ಮಂಡ್ಯ.

ಪಾಸಾಸಂಇ/ಹಿಸನಿ–ಮಂ/ಕೆಎಸ್‌ಎಂಸಿ&ಎ/735/2025–26

CHAMUNDESHWARI ELECTRICITY SUPPLY CORPORATION LIMITED
(A Government of Karnataka Undertaking)
(CIN No.U40109KA2004SGC035177)
O&M Circle, Chamarajnagara-Kodagu, Sri. Harsha Road, MPL. Building, Mysore -570 001.Ph No-9449598533,

E-Auction Notification (E-PROCUREMENT PORTAL ONLY)

Superintending Engineer (Ele), O&M Circle, Chamarajnagara-Kodagu on behalf of CESC has planned disposal of Scraped 33/11kV Power Transformer and 11kV/440V Distribution transformer in Stores of Chamarajanagara division, Kollegala Division and Madikeri Division on 'AS IS WHERE IS BASIS trought E-auction.

The Auction documents will be made available on or after **27.01.2026.** The details regarding participation in the tender can be obtained through e-procurement portal of Government of Karnataka **https://kppp.karnataka.gov.in** or help desk **+91-8046010000, +91-8068948777** or E-mail address **support@eprochelpdesk.com.** The prospective bidders can obtain further details from the office of the undersigned

Sd/- Superintending Engineer (Ele), O&M Circle, Chamarajnagara- Kodagu. CESC, Mysuru.

DIPR/MYSORE/1560/SSC/2025-26

FINANCE DEPARTMENT
Vidhana Soudha, Bangalore.

No. FD 25 JS(B&R) 2025 Bengaluru, January 24, 2026

PRESS COMMUNIQUE

It is notified for general information that the outstanding balance of **8.67% Karnataka SDL 2026** issued in terms of the Government of **Karnataka,** Finance Department Notification **No. FD 01 BMB 2015(P) Dated February 18, 2016** will be repaid at par on **February 24, 2026** with interest due up to and including **February 23, 2026.** In the event of a holiday being declared on the aforesaid date by any State Government under the Negotiable Instruments Act, 1881, the loan will be repaid by the paying offices in that State on the previous working day. **No interest will accrue on the loan from and after February 24, 2026**

2. As per sub-regulation 24 (2) and 24 (3) of Government Securities Regulations, 2007 payment of maturity proceeds to the registered holder of Government Security held in the form of Subsidiary General Ledger or Constituent Subsidiary General Ledger account or Stock Certificate shall be made by a pay order incorporating the relevant particulars of his bank account or by credit to the account of the holder in any bank having facility of receipt of funds through electronic means. For the purpose of making payment in respect of the securities, the original subscriber or the subsequent holders of such a Government Securities, as the case may be, shall submit to the Bank or Treasury and Sub Treasury or branch of State Bank of India, where they are enfaced / registered for payment of interest, as the case may be, the relevant particulars of their bank account.

3. However, in the absence of relevant particulars of bank account / mandate for receipt of funds through electronic means, to facilitate repayment on the due date, holders of **8.67% Karnataka SDL 2026** should tender their securities at the Public Debt Office, 20 days in advance. The securities should be tendered for repayment, duly discharged on the reverse there of as under:

"Received the Principal due on the Certificate".

4. It should be particularly noted that at places where the treasury work is done by a branch of the State Bank of India, the securities, if they are in the form of Stock Certificates, should be tendered at the branch of the bank concerned and not at the Treasury or Sub-Treasury.

5. Holders who wish to receive payment at places other than those where the securities have been enfaced for payment should send them duly discharged to the Public Debt Office concerned by Registered and Insured Post. The Public Debt Office will make payment by issuing a draft payable at any Treasury / Sub- Treasury or branch of State Bank of India conducting Government Treasury work in the State of **Karnataka.**

Sd/- (Ikram Shariff)
Joint Secretary to Government
(Budget & Resources), Finance Department

DIPR/CP/5139/Zen/2025-26

ಕರ್ನಾಟಕ ಸರ್ಕಾರ
ಹಾಸನ ವೈದ್ಯಕೀಯ ವಿಜ್ಞಾನಗಳ ಸಂಸ್ಥೆ, ಹಾಸನ

HASSAN INSTITUTE OF MEDICAL SCIENCES, HASSAN (An Autonomous Institute under the Dept of Medical Education, Government of Karnataka) SRI CHAMARAJENDRA HOSPITAL CAMPUS, HASSAN
Website: https://himshassan.karnataka.gov.in/
Phone/Fax No.08172-231699, 231599,
Email:directorhims@yahoo.com
NO: HIMS/TS/GEN(AGF)/3/2026-TNDR-HIMS-HSN
Date:21.01.2026

E-TENDER NOTIFICATION (Through e-procurement only) https://kppp.karnataka.gov.in

HIMS, Hassan, invites E-tender for supply of LINEN AND OTHER ITEMS from the manufacturer or authorized dealers in two cover bid system as per KTTP Act-1999. Sl.No.Name of the Equipments 1)LINEN ITEMS EMD 1,07,000/- 3)DUST BINS AND OTHER ITEMS EMD 36,500/- Qty: Refer Tender document The Supplier can have access to e-tender documents from 23.01.2026 through website: https://kppp.karnataka.gov.in on payment of transaction fee (non-refundable) as fixed by e-portal. Last date for submission of tender application is up to 06.02.2026 5:00 p.m,. For further details contact the undersigned in the office during working hours or through website: https://kppp.karnataka.gov.in

Sd/- Chief Administrative officer, Hassan Institute of Medical Science, Hassan.

ವಾಸಾಸಂಇ/ಹಿಸನಿ/ಹಾಸನ/971/ಕೆಎಸ್‌ಎಂಸಿಎ/2025–26

ಕರ್ನಾಟಕ ಸರ್ಕಾರ
ಕಾರ್ಯಪಾಲಕ ಅಭಿಯಂತರರವರ ಕಛೇರಿ
ಪಂಚಾಯತ್‌ರಾಜ್‌ಇಂಜಿನಿಯರಿಂಗ್ ವಿಭಾಗ, ಮೈಸೂರು–570 023
ಸಂ./ಕಾಅ/ಪಂ.ರಾ.ಇಂ.ವಿ/ಮೈ/ಇ–ಪ್ರಕ್ಯೂರ್‌ಮೆಂಟ್/ಸ.ಇಂ/ಕಿ.ಇಂ.

ಇ–ಪ್ರಕ್ಯೂರ್‌ಮೆಂಟ್–ಟೆಂಡರ್ ಪ್ರಕಟಣೆ ಸಂಖ್ಯೆ 21/2025–26, ದಿ:20.01.2026

ಕರ್ನಾಟಕ ಸರ್ಕಾರದ ರಾಜ್ಯಪಾಲರ ಪರವಾಗಿ ಕಾರ್ಯಪಾಲಕ ಅಭಿಯಂತರರು, ಪಂಚಾಯತ್ ರಾಜ್ ಇಂಜಿನಿಯರಿಂಗ್ ವಿಭಾಗ, ಮೈಸೂರುರವರು ಕರ್ನಾಟಕ ಸರ್ಕಾರದ ವಿದ್ಯುನ್ಮಾನ ಸಂಗ್ರಹಣೆ ವೇದಿಕೆ ಮೂಲಕ ಬೆಂಗಳೂರುರವರ ಸಹಯೋಗದೊಂದಿಗೆ, KPWD ಇಲಾಖೆಯಲ್ಲಿ ಎನ್‌ರೋಲ್ ಮಾಡಿರುವ 4ನೇ ದರ್ಜೆ ಮತ್ತು ಮೇಲ್ಪಟ್ಟ ಗುತ್ತಿಗೆದಾರರಿಂದ ಟೆಂಡರ್ ನಮೂನೆ KW-1 & 2 ಪದ್ಧತಿಯಂತೆ ಮೈಸೂರು ವಿಭಾಗ ವ್ಯಾಪ್ತಿಯ ವಿವಿಧ ಲೆಕ್ಕಶೀರ್ಷಿಕೆಗಳ ಯೋಜನೆ ಅನುದಾನದಡಿ ಟೆಂಡರ್ ಆಹ್ವಾನಿಸಲಾಗಿದ್ದು, ಮೈಸೂರು, ತಿ.ನರಸೀಪುರ ಮತ್ತು ನಂಜನಗೂಡು ತಾಲ್ಲೂಕುಗಳಲ್ಲಿ ಅನುಮೋದನೆಯಾಗಿದ್ದು, ಸದರಿ ಕಾಮಗಾರಿಗಳಲ್ಲಿ ಕಟ್ಟಡಗಳ ನಿರ್ಮಾಣ/ದುರಸ್ಥಿ/ಅಭಿವೃದ್ಧಿ/ಮುಂದುವರೆದ ಹಾಗೂ ರಸ್ತೆ ಕಾಮಗಾರಿಗಳಾಗಿದ್ದು, ಒಟ್ಟು 09 ಕಾಮಗಾರಿಗಳಿದ್ದು, ಸದರಿ ಕಾಮಗಾರಿಗಳ ಮೊತ್ತವು ರೂ.5.20 ಲಕ್ಷದಿಂದ 50.00 ಲಕ್ಷಗಳಾಗಿದ್ದು, ಇ–ಪ್ರಕ್ಯೂರ್‌ಮೆಂಟ್ ಮೂಲಕ ಟೆಂಡರ್‌ನ್ನು ಆಹ್ವಾನಿಸಲಾಗಿರುತ್ತದೆ. ಟೆಂಡರ್ ಫಾರಂಗೆ ಅರ್ಜಿ ಸಲ್ಲಿಸಲು ಮತ್ತು ಭರ್ತಿ ಮಾಡಿದ ಫಾರಂಗಳನ್ನು ಆನ್‌ಲೈನ್‌ನಲ್ಲಿ ಸಲ್ಲಿಸಲು ದಿನಾಂಕ: 20.01.2026 ರಿಂದ 03.02.2026 ಸಂಜೆ 16.00 ಘಂಟೆಯವರೆಗೆ ಹಾಗೂ ಟೆಂಡರ್ ಬಗ್ಗೆ ಸ್ಪಷ್ಟೀಕರಣ/ವಿಚಾರಿಸಿ ಮಾಹಿತಿ ಪಡೆಯಲು ಅಂತಿಮ ದಿನಾಂಕ: 02.02.2026ರ ಸಂಜೆ 16.00 ಘಂಟೆಯಾಗಿದ್ದು, ಟೆಂಡರ್ ತೆರೆಯುವ ದಿನಾಂಕ: 04.02.2026ರ ಸಂಜೆ 17.00 ಘಂಟೆಯ ನಂತರ ಟೆಂಡರ್ ಫಾರಂ ಬೆಲೆ ಇ–ಪ್ರಕ್ಯೂರ್‌ಮೆಂಟ್‌ನಂತೆ ಸಲ್ಲಿಸಬೇಕು. ಹೆಚ್ಚಿನ ವಿವರಗಳಿಗೆ ಕರ್ನಾಟಕ ಸರ್ಕಾರದ ವಿದ್ಯುನ್ಮಾನ ಸಂಗ್ರಹಣೆ ವೇದಿಕೆ ಮೂಲಕ (e-procurement portal) ವೆಬ್ ಸೈಟ್‌ನಲ್ಲಿ ಪಡೆಯಬಹುದು https://kppp.karnataka.gov.in ಈ ಬಗ್ಗೆ ಇನ್ನೂ ಹೆಚ್ಚಿನ ವಿವರಗಳಿಗಾಗಿ ಕಾರ್ಯಪಾಲಕ ಅಭಿಯಂತರು, ಪಂಚಾಯತ್‌ರಾಜ್ ಇಂಜಿನಿಯರಿಂಗ್ ವಿಭಾಗ, ಕುವೆಂಪುನಗರ, ಮೈಸೂರು (ಫೋನ್ ನಂ.0821–2560853) ರವರ ಕಛೇರಿಯ ವೇಳೆಯಲ್ಲಿ ಪಡೆಯಬಹುದು.

ಸಹಿ/– ಕಾರ್ಯಪಾಲಕ ಅಭಿಯಂತರು, ಪಂ.ರಾ.ಇಂ.ವಿಭಾಗ, ಮೈಸೂರು

DIPR/DDMYS/1547/KSMCA/877/2025-26

PUBLIC WORKS DEPARTMENT
Office of the Executive Engineer, No.1, Building Division, SJP Campus, Bengaluru, Phone: 080-22255210
No. EE/Bld.1/AE-3/2025-26/73 Date: 22.01.2026

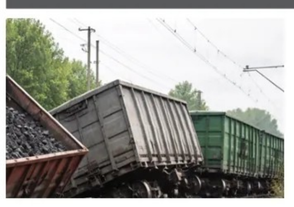
INVITATION FOR TENDER (IFT)

The above Department invites Tenders through e-procurement portal of GoK **(http://kppp.karnataka.gov.in)** from eligible Tenderers **for providing and fixing work stations, wardrobes, false ceiling, providing painting, repairs to false ceiling, supply of chairs, providing essential works for Republic Day celebrations, Annual maintenance work of fire fighting system and refilling of existing fire extinguishers, repairs and renovation of MIG 33/12 and other development works, total of 05 works at various notified places in Bengaluru.** Approx. value of work: **Min. Rs. 4.04 lakhs, Max. Rs. 10.08 lakhs.** EMD: **Min. Rs. 10,100/-, Max. Rs. 25,300/-.** Cost of Document: **As in e-portal.** Period of Completion: **from 2 Months to 10 Months (including rainy season) for each work.** Last date for downloading Tender through e-procurement portal and submission through online: **29.01.2026 up to 5.00 PM.** Date of opening the Tender: as per e-procurement guidelines. Further information, brief details of the works, approx. amount, EMD, Reservation, etc. can be obtained from the above office or from e-procurement portal **http://kppp.karnataka.gov.in**

Sd/- Executive Engineer

DIPR/DD-C.P/5181/KSMCA/2025-26

QUICK READ



Three wagons derail in Balasore, no injuries

Bhubaneswar

Three wagons of a goods train derailed at Rupsa station in Balasore district, Odisha, on Friday morning. The train was leaving the station after unloading cement and fertilisers when the wagons went off the track. Fortunately, no one was injured in the accident. Rail services on the Bhadrak-Kharagpur section were briefly disrupted but resumed after the derailed wagons were cleared. The South Eastern Railway's Kharagpur division has started an investigation into the cause of the derailment.

Youth amputates foot to join medical college

Jaunpur

A 20-year-old youth from Jaunpur, Uttar Pradesh, amputated his own foot to get admission under the disability quota in a government medical college. Suraj Bhaskar had failed the NEET exam twice, and police said he claimed his foot was severed in an attack. His elder brother reported the incident, prompting a police investigation. Authorities quickly suspected the claim was false and are now seeking legal advice to determine what criminal charges may apply. The case is being handled by the City Circle Officer.

Mumbai cops take custody of gangster Pujari

Mumbai

Mumbai police have taken gangster Ravi Pujari into custody in connection with a 2018 case of trying to extort Rs 50 lakh from choreographer Remo D'Souza and his wife. Pujari was brought from Bengaluru prison and produced in a Mumbai court. He has been remanded until January 27. The 56-year-old gangster faces 49 cases across Mumbai, Thane, Navi Mumbai, and Karnataka. This is the second of nine pending cases for which his custody has been obtained. Senegal has approved his prosecution in all nine cases.

Rahul Gandhi urges PM Modi to address textile industry crisis

He highlighted the struggles of India's textile sector and called for urgent government intervention

NEW DELHI

Congress leader Rahul Gandhi on Friday flagged the severe impact of US tariffs on India's textile exporters. Sharing a video from his recent visit to a garment factory in Haryana, he praised the skill of Indian tailors and the resilience of workers but warned that job losses and factory shutdowns are rising due to trade challenges. Gandhi said 50 per cent US tariffs and uncertainty are hurting exporters, calling the situation part of India's "Dead Economy." He urged Prime Minister Narendra Modi to take immediate action, emphasizing that over 4.5 crore jobs and numerous businesses are at risk. Using the hashtag TINA, Gandhi criticized the government's lack of accountability on the matter.

He pointed out that India's textile sector is the second largest employer in the country and its products are loved globally. Falling international prices and stiff competition from Bangladesh and China are adding to the pressure. Units are closing, orders are decreasing, and the sector faces widespread uncertainty, Gandhi said.

During his factory visit, Gandhi interacted with workers and management, observing the production process and even trying his hand at cutting cloth. He stressed the need for a US trade deal that prioritizes Indian businesses and workers.

Gandhi concluded by urging Prime Minister Modi not to let personal or political weakness affect the economy, calling for genuine support to protect jobs, safeguard livelihoods, and ensure the textile industry continues to thrive.

JP NADDA RAISES CONCERN OVER BENGAL SAFETY

JABALPUR

Union Health Minister and former BJP president J.P. Nadda, speaking at a City Bengali Club event in Jabalpur on Friday, expressed concern that people from the Bengali community feel unsafe in West Bengal. He noted Bengal's historic contributions to India's freedom, culture, and knowledge, citing leaders like Subhash Chandra Bose, Rabindranath Tagore, and Shyama Prasad Mukherjee.

Nadda highlighted the contrast with Madhya Pradesh, where the Bengali community has been respected and elected to both Lok Sabha and Vidhan Sabha seats. He mentioned his mother-in-law,

He said Bengalis feel unsafe in West Bengal and called for change, praising Madhya Pradesh for providing respect and opportunities to the community.

Jayashree Banerjee, who represented Jabalpur in Parliament from 1999–2004 and served as a state minister, as an example of Bengal-origin leaders thriving in the state.

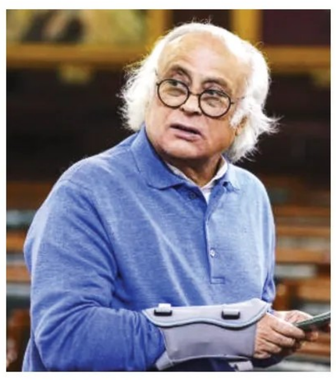
He said, "What Bengal thinks today, India thinks tomorrow," emphasizing the importance of Bengal in shaping national culture and politics. Addressing concerns raised by a Bengali community member, Nadda stressed that it is alarming that a community which contributed significantly to the nation now feels unsafe in its own state.

The BJP leader called for political change in West Bengal and suggested people will have the opportunity to influence this in the upcoming April-May elections. He also reiterated the party's strong ties with the people of West Bengal.

Nadda is on a two-day visit to Jabalpur and is scheduled to lay the foundation for a medical college in Katni on Saturday under the PPP model. The event was attended by his mother-in-law Jayashree Banerjee and wife Mallika Nadda, highlighting his family's long association with public service and the Bengali community.

Jairam moves SC challenging ex-post facto environ clearances

NEW DELHI



Congress leader and former environment minister Jairam Ramesh on Friday filed a petition in the Supreme Court challenging ex post facto environmental clearances. He said these approvals are "bad in law, harmful to public health, and make a mockery of governance."

Ramesh explained that retrospective clearances allow wilful violators to bypass laws, noting that ignorance of regulations cannot be an excuse. Last month, he had urged the Supreme Court to take suo motu action on three urgent environmental issues, citing the recent review of the Aravallis verdict as a precedent.

The Supreme Court had recalled its November 20 verdict redefining the Aravallis and opened the door for a review of its May 16 ruling that barred retrospective environmental approvals. The May 16 judgment had prohibited the Ministry of Environment, Forests and Climate Change (MoEFCC) and related authorities from granting post-facto clearances to projects violating environmental norms.

Ramesh criticized the recall of the earlier verdict, saying retrospective approvals, even with penalties, only legalize law-breaking and undermine governance. "Such approvals go against the foundations of jurisprudence and should never be permitted," he said.

The recall came through a 2:1 majority verdict by a bench of Chief Justice B.R. Gavai and Justices Ujjal Bhuyan and K. Vinod Chandran, who referred the matter to an appropriate bench for fresh consideration. Nearly 40 review and modification pleas were heard against the Vanashakti judgement.

Ramesh urged the Supreme Court to consider other urgent environmental matters suo motu, as it did with the Aravallis case, emphasizing the need to protect public health and ensure strict compliance with environmental laws.

R-Day rehearsal: Soldiers march undeterred in rain

NEW DELHI

Marching columns of soldiers in wet uniforms and boots held the full dress rehearsal for the Republic Day parade along Kartavya Path on Friday, despite steady rain and gusty winds. The first rain of 2026, brought by a strong western disturbance, delayed proceedings but did not dampen the spirits of the troops.

Soldiers marched in tight formations with precise steps, unfazed by slippery grounds and soaked clothing. Officers on foot, horseback, and atop military vehicles moved in perfect sync as flags flew high. Patriotic songs and narrations played across the ceremonial boulevard, adding to the festive mood.

Military floats, including Operation Sindoor and BrahMos missile systems, advanced through the rain, standing out against the grey sky. Commands rang out clearly, cutting through the sound of rain and thunder. Delhi Police and other security personnel, clad in raincoats, remained stationed at key points to maintain security throughout the rehearsal.

Spectators braved the wet conditions, using umbrellas, plastic sheets, and caps to stay dry. Mothers adjusted children's clothing, and the elderly covered themselves as they watched the march past. Some took brief shelter under temporary covers, while others remained seated, unwilling to miss the rehearsal.

According to the India Meteorological Department, rainfall between 8:30 am and 11:30 am measured 12.6 mm at Palam, 12.5 mm at Janakpuri, 11.8 mm at Lodi Road, 11.4 mm at Ridge, and 8.6 mm at Safdarjung. Mayur Vihar recorded 4 mm of rainfall. Thunderstorms, lightning, and gusty winds of 30-40 km per hour accompanied the showers, bringing relief from rising pollution levels across the city.

Over 20 Noida schools receive hoax bomb threat emails

NOIDA

Around 20 private schools in Noida received hoax bomb threat emails on Friday, triggering security checks, though authorities said the situation remained under control. Senior police officials, along with bomb disposal and dog squads, rushed to the schools and carried out thorough inspections.

No suspicious items were found, and all premises were declared safe. A cyber team is analysing the emails to trace their origin, with police noting that one message originated from a foreign address. An FIR has been registered under relevant sections of the Bharatiya Nyaya Sanhita and the IT Act. Police have stepped up surveillance at schools and sensitive locations. Authorities urged the public not to believe rumours and said normalcy was restored, allowing schools to resume activities.

Jailed murder convicts granted parole to marry

JAIPUR

In Jaipur's open-air prison, two high-profile murder convicts, Priya Seth (34) and Hanuman Prasad (29), have fallen in love and are set to marry this Friday. Both are serving life sentences for separate sensational murders in Rajasthan.

Seth was convicted for killing Dushyant Sharma in 2018 after meeting him on a dating app, strangling him, and hiding his body in a suitcase. Prasad, meanwhile, conspired with a woman he was in a relationship with to kill her husband and three children in a 2017 Alwar case. He was convicted in 2023.

Placed in Sanganer open jail, the two developed a relationship over the past year. They were recently granted 15-day parole after the Rajasthan High Court directed the parole committee to decide on their applications within seven days. Acting on the order, the committee approved their release, allowing them to leave prison on Wednesday. The wedding will take place in Barodameo, Prasad's native town in Alwar district.

Prison officials said the process followed the rules under the Rajasthan Prisoners Open Air Camp system, where selected inmates can work outside during the day and return to the camp in the evening.

The parole decision has sparked controversy. Sandeep Loharia, counsel for Seth's victim Dushyant Sharma's family, said they were not informed and will challenge the parole order in the High Court.

Despite the opposition, the extraordinary wedding has drawn public attention. Authorities emphasized that the couple's parole and upcoming marriage were approved under existing legal and prison procedures, highlighting the functioning of rehabilitation measures in open-air prison camps.

Kerala court grants bail to former TDB officer

KOLLAM

A Kollam court on Friday granted statutory bail to former Travancore Devaswom Board (TDB) administrative officer Murari Babu in two cases linked to the alleged gold loss from Sabarimala temple. Bail was given as 90 days had passed since his arrest, and the Special Investigation Team (SIT) had not filed chargesheets in either case.

Babu is the second accused in the case involving gold from the Dwarapalaka (guardian deity) idol plates and the sixth accused in the Sreekovil (sanctum sanctorum) doorframe case. Currently lodged at the Special Sub Jail in Thiruvananthapuram, he is expected to be released by Friday evening, making him the first arrested person in the Sabarimala gold loss probe to leave jail.

Babu was arrested in October last year for allegedly forwarding a proposal by prime accused Unnikrishnan Potty to electroplate the Dwarapalaka idols and Sreekovil doorframes, leading to the alleged gold loss. At the time, he was serving as Deputy Devaswom Commissioner in Haripad and was later suspended from service. Earlier, Potty had also secured statutory bail in the Dwarapalaka idol case.

So far, the SIT has named 16 people in the Dwarapalaka case and 13 in the Sreekovil doorframe case. Police sources said more arrested individuals may seek statutory bail if the charge sheets are further delayed.

The Kerala High Court recently expressed satisfaction with the investigation's progress, noting that an in-depth probe is ongoing. Babu's release highlights delays in filing chargesheets despite serious allegations in the high-profile Sabarimala gold loss cases.

SC issues notice on Thirupparankundram temple

NEW DELHI

The Supreme Court on Friday issued notices to the Centre, Tamil Nadu government, Archaeological Survey of India (ASI), and others on a plea seeking the ASI's takeover of the Thirupparankundram Lord Murugan Subramaniya Temple in Madurai and directions for daily lamp lighting atop the 'deepathoon' (stone pillar).

The plea, filed by the Hindu Dharma Parishad, also sought orders for lighting the entire hill with lamps every year during the Karthigai festival and allowing devotees to worship. During the hearing, the court was informed that the Madras High Court on January 6 upheld a single judge's order permitting the lamp lighting.

The High Court had criticized the Tamil Nadu government's claim that lighting the lamp would disturb public peace, calling it "ridiculous." The division bench of Justices G. Jayachandran and K.K. Ramakrishnan clarified that the stone pillar's location belongs to the Sri Subramania Swamy Temple. The Supreme Court bench of Justices Aravind Kumar and Vipul M. Pancholi will now await responses from the Centre, state government, and ASI before proceeding further.

SAFE SURFING

AP moots Australia-style social media ban for U-16

AMARAVATI

The Andhra Pradesh government has formed a panel to study restricting or banning social media use for children under 16. The move comes after Australia recently passed a law setting 16 as the minimum age for social media access.

The committee, headed by IT Minister Nara Lokesh, includes State Home Minister Vangalapudi Anitha and Health Minister Satya Kumar. It will examine various state and international models to determine the best approach for Andhra Pradesh.

Home Minister Anitha said the focus will be on controlling social media abuse while ensuring children and parents face no penalties.

"Most platforms, like Facebook, ask for a user's age but do not verify it. Either a ban or restriction—this is the main task," Anitha said. She added that verifying age through documents could be an effective way to enforce limits. The committee will also study how other countries and Indian states handle the issue and share recommendations with the Centre.

The panel is expected to submit its report in a month after discussions with Chief Minister N. Chandrababu Naidu. Lokesh had earlier mentioned the possibility of limiting social media for children below 16 during the World Economic Forum in Davos. The ruling Telugu Desam Party welcomed the proposal, noting its importance for child safety.

With growing concerns about social media addiction and online abuse among minors, Andhra Pradesh is exploring ways to balance digital access with safety. The government aims to ensure that platforms take responsibility for verifying users' ages and protecting young people from potential harm while studying global best practices.

QUICK READ

3-4 die daily over SIR anxiety: Mamata

Kolkata

West Bengal Chief Minister Mamata Banerjee on Friday said three to four people in the state die by suicide daily due to stress over the ongoing Special Intensive Revision (SIR) of electoral rolls.

Speaking at a programme on Subhas Chandra Bose's birth anniversary at Red Road, she claimed that over 110 people have already died and urged the Election Commission and central government to take responsibility.

Banerjee also accused the BJP of plotting against Bengal and disrespecting national icons like Gandhi, Tagore, Bose, and Ambedkar.

Sangli resident alleges Muchhal cheated Rs 40L

Sangli

A Sangli resident, Vidnyan Mane, has accused music composer and singer Palash Muchhal of cheating him of Rs 40 lakh, officials said on Thursday.

Mane, 34, approached the Sangli Superintendent of Police seeking an FIR. He alleged that Muchhal promised to invest in his film project Nazaria as a producer and assured a profit of Rs 12 lakh on an initial investment of Rs 25 lakh. Trusting him, Mane invested Rs 40 lakh by March 2025. However, the project was never completed, and Muchhal allegedly ignored requests for a refund.

Police are currently conducting a preliminary investigation, though no FIR has been registered yet.

Namaz offered peacefully at Bhojshala mosque

Dhar

Namaz was offered peacefully at the disputed Bhojshala-Kamal Maula Mosque complex in Dhar district on Friday, officials said. Following the Supreme Court's directions, Muslims offered prayers between 1 pm and 3 pm at a designated spot within the complex. Meanwhile, Hindus performed Basant Panchami puja at Bhojshala.

The complex is an 11th-century monument protected by the Archaeological Survey of India. Hindus consider it a temple dedicated to Goddess Saraswati, while Muslims identify it as the Kamal Maula Mosque.

An ASI order from April 2003 allows Hindus to worship every Tuesday and Muslims to offer prayers on Fridays.

SOUTH POLITICAL SHAKEUP

LDF-UDF pairing must be broken for progress: PM

PM Narendra Modi drew parallels between the BJP's beginnings in Kerala and its early journey in Gujarat state

Continued from page 1

Prime Minister Narendra Modi on Friday lauded the historic BJP victory in the Thiruvananthapuram Municipal Corporation, saying it marks the end of decades of neglect by the Left Democratic Front (LDF) and United Democratic Front (UDF), and the beginning of a new era of development and good governance.

Addressing a gathering in Kerala's capital city, he also criticised the two fronts for perpetuating corruption and mismanagement.

"Both the LDF and UDF have, in various ways, driven Kerala into a cycle of corruption, mismanagement, and appeasement politics. Though they may use different flags and symbols, their underlying political approach and agendas are virtually identical: rampant corruption, a lack of accountability, and the promotion of divisive communalism. Both parties are well aware that their opportunity to govern resurfaces every five years, yet the core issues remain unaddressed," PM Modi said.

"For decades, both the LDF and UDF have neglected Thiruvananthapuram, depriving the city of basic facilities and infrastructure. The Left and the Congress have consistently failed to address the needs of our people. However, our BJP team has already begun working towards a developed Thiruvananthapuram. To the people of this city, I say: have faith- the change that has long been overdue is finally on its way," he added.

Hailing victory in the Thiruvananthapuram Municipal Corporation polls, he said, "This victory is a victory for good governance. This victory is a victory for the resolve to build a developed Kerala. This victory is a victory for the commitment to free Kerala from the corruption of the LDF and UDF."

PM Modi drew parallels between the BJP's beginnings in Kerala and its early journey in Gujarat.

"The left-leaning groups present here may not view me favourably. However, allow me to present the facts. Prior to 1987, the BJP was a marginal party in Gujarat. In 1987, for the first time, the BJP won control of the Ahmedabad Municipal Corporation--much like the party's recent victory in Thiruvananthapuram. Since then, the people of Gujarat have entrusted us with opportunities to serve, and we have continued to do so for decades. Our journey began in one city in Gujarat, and similarly, in Kerala, our beginnings have started with a single city," he said.

The Prime Minister emphasised that Thiruvananthapuram will now serve as a model city for the rest of the country.

"To the people of this city, I say, have faith. Thiruvananthapuram, for the entire country, will become a model city. I extend my full support to make Thiruvananthapuram one of the best cities in India," he added.

The PM also discussed Kerala's broader political scenario ahead of the upcoming elections.

"When considering the future of Kerala, the political landscape is divided into just two predominant sides, the LDF and the UDF. Over the years, both groups have taken turns governing the state, contributing to Kerala's current challenges. However, there is a third alternative--one that prioritises development and good governance--represented by the BJP and NDA," he said.

PM meets seers from Sivagiri Mutt, praises SNDS's role in promoting social harmony

THIRUVANANTHAPURAM

Prime Minister Narendra Modi, during his visit to Kerala on Friday, met with seers associated with the Sivagiri Mutt in Varkala. PM Modi was in Thiruvananthapuram today where he flagged off four trains and inagurated a slew of developmental projects In a message posted on his X social media platform, the Minister said that he met with the swamis from the Sree Narayana Dharma Sanghom Trust at Sivagiri Mutt and lauded their contributions to social service, education, spirituality, and community welfare. Describing their efforts as a lasting contribution to India's social fabric, the Prime Minister said their work, inspired by the timeless ideals of Sree Narayana Guru, continues to uphold values of equality, harmony, and human dignity.

"Met Swamis associated with the Sree Narayana Dharma Sanghom Trust, Sivagiri Mutt, Varkala. Their dedicated work in the fields of social service, education, spirituality and community welfare has made a lasting contribution to our social fabric. Rooted in the timeless ideals of Sree Narayana Guru, their efforts continue to promote equality, harmony and dignity across society", PM Modi wrote on 'X'.

'DMK is CMC govt - corruption, mafia, crime': Modi

CHENNAI

Prime Minister Narendra Modi on Friday trained guns at the ruling DMK in Tamil Nadu and accused it of dynastic politics.

The PM was addressing the first political rally of the NDA at Maduranthakam in Tamil Nadu ahead of assembly elections due in another 2-3 months.

Modi said the DMK government's days in the state are numbered as Tamil Nadu wants to be free of misgovernance. He also dubbed the DMK as "CMC -- Corruption, Mafia, Crime promoting govt."

"Tamil Nadu people have made up their mind to uproot DMK, CMC. The formation of BJP-NDA double engine government is for sure," he said.

"Dynasty, corruption, abuse women, abuse our culture are routes for one's growth in DMK," he added.

PM Modi arrived in Chennai on Friday and was received by Governor R N Ravi, state minister T M Anbarasan, Chief Secretary N Muruganandam and other officials at the airport here upon his arrival from Thiruvananthapuram.

'TIME TO BID FAREWELL TO DMK GOVERNMENT'

Modi said it was time to bid farewell to the "corrupt" DMK government in Tamil Nadu as he kick-started the NDA campaign for the assembly elections in the next few months. Ahead of his visit to Madurantakam near Chennai, Modi said the NDA's governance record and commitment to regional aspirations were resonating strongly with voters in Tamil Nadu. "Tamil Nadu is with NDA. I'll be joining NDA leaders at the rally in Madurantakam later today. Tamil Nadu has decided that it's time to bid farewell to the corrupt DMK government. The NDA's governance record and commitment to regional aspirations are striking a chord with the people of the state," Modi said in a post on X.

KHARGE, RAHUL MEET BIHAR CONG LEADERS

NEW DELHI

Congress National President Mallikarjun Kharge and Leader of Opposition Rahul Gandhi on Friday met senior Congress leaders from Bihar in New Delhi to discuss party strategy and address electoral setbacks.

The meeting was also attended by Congress General Secretary (Organisation) KC Venugopal and other senior leaders.

The gathering comes after Congress's poor performance in the 2025 Bihar Assembly elections. The party contested 60 seats but won only six, recording a conversion rate below 10 percent. This result was a major setback for the party, which was part of the Mahagathbandhan alliance along with the Rashtriya Janata Dal (RJD). The RJD also performed poorly, winning just 25 out of 143 contested seats.

The National Democratic Alliance (NDA), led by the Bharatiya Janata Party (BJP), secured a historic landslide, winning 202 of the 243 seats and marking its second time crossing the 200-seat mark in Bihar. Within the NDA, BJP won 89 seats, Janata Dal (United) 85, Lok Janshakti Party (Ram Vilas) 19, Hindustani Awam Morcha (Secular) five, and Rashtriya Lok Morcha four seats. The Mahagathbandhan together could only manage 35 seats, giving the ruling alliance a strong three-fourths majority. Earlier, in November 2025, Kharge, Gandhi, and Venugopal held a meeting at the party headquarters to review reasons behind Bihar's electoral defeat and plan corrective measures.

During Friday's session, discussions focused on strengthening the party's organisation, preparing for upcoming elections, and strategising for future contests. Kharge and Rahul also held a separate review for the upcoming assembly elections in five states and Union Territories: Kerala, Tamil Nadu, Puducherry, West Bengal, and Assam. The leadership emphasised learning from past mistakes and working towards better voter outreach and performance in these crucial polls.

PM should rename Andaman Islands 'Azad Hind': Kavitha

HYDERABAD

Telangana Jagruthi founder K Kavitha has written to Prime Minister Narendra Modi, requesting that the Andaman and Nicobar Islands be renamed "Azad Hind" to honour freedom fighter Netaji Subhas Chandra Bose. She made the demand on Parakram Diwas, celebrated on January 23, marking Netaji's birth anniversary.

In her letter, Kavitha recalled that Netaji hoisted the national flag in Port Blair on December 30, 1943, declaring the islands as India's first territory freed from British rule. She noted that under the Provisional Government of Azad Hind, he had named parts of the islands Shaheed Dweep and Swaraj Dweep. Kavitha said that while some islands were renamed in 2018, the archipelago as a whole still retains its colonial-era name. She added that "Azad Hind" would symbolise India's first assertion of sovereignty and serve as a permanent tribute to Netaji's contribution to the freedom struggle.

Kavitha described the renaming as a matter of national pride that would inspire future generations, strengthen cultural awareness, and align India's geography with its historical fight for freedom. She urged the Union Government to initiate constitutional and administrative procedures to implement the change. Earlier, Union Home Minister Amit Shah paid tribute to Netaji on his birth anniversary, highlighting the islands' historical significance. In 2018, three islands were renamed: Ross Island became Netaji Subhas Chandra Bose Dweep, Neil Island as Shaheed Dweep, and Havelock Island as Swaraj Dweep.

Netaji, born in Cuttack in 1897, played a key role in India's independence movement and founded the Azad Hind Fauj. January 23 was declared Parakram Diwas by the central government in 2021 to commemorate his birth and valor.

Delhi HC extends Lokpal time on Mahua Moitra case

NEW DELHI

The Delhi High Court on Friday extended by two months the deadline for the Lokpal of India to decide whether to grant sanction to the CBI to file a chargesheet against Trinamool Congress MP Mahua Moitra in the alleged cash-for-query case, clarifying that no further extension would be granted.

A Division Bench of Justices Anil Kshetarpal and Harish Vaidyanathan Shankar said both Moitra's and the CBI's counsels did not oppose the extension. The Lokpal had sought additional time after its November 12 order granting sanction was quashed by the High Court over legal flaws, with directions to reconsider the matter and issue a reasoned order.

Moitra has argued that her submissions were not properly considered and that the Lokpal invoked the wrong statutory provision. The case stems from an October 2023 complaint. Moitra has denied the allegations and was re-elected from Krishnanagar in 2024.

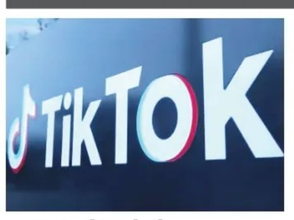
NANDI MEDICAL COLLEGE AND RESEARCH INSTITUTE
E-mail: cimschikkaballapura@gmail.com, Phone and Fax: 08156-272388
NO:NMC&RI/CKB/E-TENDER/05/2025-26 Date:22.01.2026
Tender Notification
Nandi Medical College & Research Institution New College Building Chikkaballapura invites tenders from the eligible tenderers through the E-Tenders for the following subjects. **(1)** Supply and Installation Anatomy, Bio Chemistry & Physiology Instruments. **(2)** Supply and Installation of Curtains, Curtains Rods & Holder. **(3)** Supply and Installation of and Facility Reporting Microscopes. For further information about tender the details please log on to: **https://kppp.karnataka.gov.in. Note:** For any further information and announcements regarding this tender please keep on watching our website i.e., **https://cimschikkaballapura.karnataka.gov.in**
Sd/- DIRECTOR, NMC&RI, CHIKKABALLAPURA
DIPR/CHIKKABALLAPURA/RO:385/KSMCA/2025-26

Govt of Karnataka
(Public Works, Department)
Office of the Executive Engineer, P.W.D, Sedam Division, Sedam
CORRIGENDUM NOTIFICATION
Sub:-Postponement of Tenders and Changes of work Indent Numbers called in e-procurement for the works under CMIDP For The year 2025-26 in **Chittapur Taluka, Ref :** 1) This office tender notification No.**2516** Dated : **30.12.2025,** With reference to the above subject, The tender called for the works Under **CMIDP in Chittapur taluka work indent No.32571, 32572, 32573, 31501, 31499 are Postponed due to technical issue in the e-procurement Portal The Calendar of Events for the works read as under;**
1) Last date & time for Tender pre Bid Meeting : **09.02.2026 Mrg 11:30Hrs,** 2) Last date & time for Tender Queries /Clarifications :**10.02.2026 Upto 17:30Hrs,** 3) Last date & time for receipt of tenders : **11.02.2026 at 16:00 Hrs,** 4) Date & time for Opening of Technical Bid : **12.02.2026 at 16:30 Hrs**, 5) Date and time for Opening of Financial Bid : **16.02.2026 at 16:30 Hrs**, **Tender Condition in the original notification remains same and the information may be got from the website of e-procurment portal of Government of Karnataka (https//www.eproc.karnataka.gov.in)**
Sd/- **Executive Engineer**
PWD Divison, Sedam
DIPR/Kalaburagi/1008/2025-26/Deshpande Publicity

GOVERNMENT OF KARNATAKA
DISTRICT PLANNING CO-ORDINATORS OFFICE, S.S.K., VIJAYAPUR.
TENDER NOTIFICATION
Tenders are invited through e-procurement as folows to select an agency to provide staff and part-time teacher services on outsourcing basis for a total of 16 posts for Karnataka Kasturba Gandhi Girl's Vidyalaya 04 KKGBVH Hostels under the Comprehensive Education-Karnataka program of the school Education Department of Vijayapura District for the academic year 2025-26. For more information https://kppp.karnataka.gov.in it and office phone number: 9448999331.
1) Tender reference no: SSK/2025-26/SE0316
Sd/- DDPI & DPO, SSK, VIJAYAPUR
ವಾಸಾಸಂಇ/ವಿಜಯಪುರ/637/ಕೆಎಸ್ಎಂಸಿಎ/2025–26

KARNATAKA URBAN WATER SUPPLY & DRAINAGE BOARD
KALABURAGI ZONE, KALABURAGI
Office of the Chief Engineer KUWS & D Board, Kalaburagi Zone, Kalaburagi
No. KWB/CEK/TEC/WSS/15th Finance-RCR/5LL-OHT/2025-26/1420 Date : 22-01-2026
NOTICE INVITING TENDER - 3rd Call
1) Detail of Work: "Construction of 5.00 LL RCC Shaft Type OHT on 15mtrs staging at Askihal Village of Raichur City under Restricted grants of 15th Finance for the year 2023-24 of Raichur city (Lumpsum-No Variation)" (Work Indent No : KUWSDB/2025-26/WS/ WORK_INDENT461/ CALL-2), 2) Amount of Estimate **: Rs.104.60 Lakhs (Excluding GST),** 3) Eligibility of Contractor **:** Eligible Contractors, 4) Details of Tender application amount and EMD amount **: Rs.2,00,000/-,** 5) Period of Completion **:** 12 (Twelve) Months, 6) Date and Time for commencement of downloading of tender documents from the e-procurement portal **27.01.2026 after 17:30** hours, 7) Date & Time of Pre-Bid Meeting**: 02.02.2026 at 11:30 hours**, 8) Last Date and Time for receipt of Tenders **: 10-02-2026 upto 17:30 hours** 9) Date and Time for Opening of Tender **: 12-02-2026 after 11:00 hours**, 10) Addl. information **: Office of the Chief Engineer KUWS & D Board, Kalaburagi Zone,"Jalbhavan", Rajapur, Kusnoor Road, Telephone : 08472-220817 E-mail ID : kwbceklb14@gmail.com** 11) Address of E-portal **:** www.kppp.karnataka.gov.in
Sd/- Chief Engineer,
KUWS & D Board, Kalaburagi Zone, Kalaburagi
DIPR/Kalaburagi/1011/Deshpande Publicity/2025-26

QUICK READ



TikTok forms new US venture for security

Washington

TikTok has created a new US-based joint venture to follow federal security rules and let Americans continue using the app. Called TikTok USDS Joint Venture LLC, it will be majority American-owned and operate independently. The venture will manage data security, content moderation, and the recommendation algorithm for US users. All data will be stored in Oracle's secure US cloud, protected by strict privacy and cybersecurity rules. The company aims to safeguard national security while keeping the app available.

73 SK online scam suspects return home

Yeongjongdo

Seventy-three South Koreans detained in Cambodia for alleged online scams returned home Friday on a chartered Korean Air flight. They face investigations for reportedly swindling 48.6 billion won ($33.1 million) from 869 victims. Most suspects, in their 20s and 30s, were taken into custody at Incheon Airport and sent to local police stations. Seventy are accused of online fraud like romance scams, while three face robbery and gambling charges. Police plan to seek extended detention warrants.

Major bushfires force evacuations across Aus

Sydney

Major bushfires in southern Western Australia have led to road closures and evacuation orders for nearby towns. A fire in Fitzgerald River National Park, sparked by lightning on January 16, has burned over 60,000 hectares and threatens homes and lives. Residents in towns like Ravensthorpe were told to leave or shelter indoors. An evacuation center opened in Newdegate. The blaze is one of four major fires in the region, with authorities warning around 1,500 residents to monitor conditions and act quickly.

NK yet to announce schedule for 1st party cong in 5 years

Results from the congress, the highest decision-making body in the North, will determine the country's major policy lines for the next five years

SEOUL

North Korea's ruling Workers' Party is preparing for its first congress in five years, but the schedule remains unclear.

The event, expected to take place next month, will set the country's key policies on the economy, foreign affairs, and other areas for the next five years. Seoul officials predict it may happen in early February, though North Korean media has not yet provided details.

Historically, the North announces party congresses just days before they begin. In 2016, the seventh congress was announced nine days in advance, while the eighth in 2021 was revealed about a week beforehand. Preliminary procedures, like electing regional representatives, usually signal the approaching event. Analysts expect similar steps before the ninth congress, such as a Politburo meeting to finalize the schedule.

Ahead of the congress, North Korea has intensified discipline among government officials and highlighted achievements from economic plans. Leader Kim Jong-un recently dismissed the vice premier responsible for machinery, calling him "irresponsible," while personally inspecting or inaugurating construction projects tied to his regional development policy.

The upcoming congress, as the highest decision-making body in North Korea, will influence the nation's domestic and international strategies. Observers are closely watching preparations, public appearances, and internal movements for clues. How the North balances economic goals, military development, and foreign policy in the new five-year plan remains a key focus for Seoul and international analysts.

The ninth congress could shape the nation's direction amid ongoing geopolitical tensions and domestic economic challenges. Preparatory steps and official announcements are expected in the coming days or weeks, offering the first concrete indication of when the event will officially begin.

'Media observes history, adapts to social change'

India Today Group's Kalli Purie emphasizes media's role as observers of history, highlighting bilingual newsrooms and adapting to social and linguistic changes during the WEF 2026.

DAVOS

Executive Editor-in-Chief of India Today Group, Kalli Purie, spoke at WEF 2026 about how Indian media is evolving with social and linguistic changes. She highlighted the role of media as observers of history, stating that journalists must balance reporting with opinion while respecting cultural context.

Purie emphasized that newsrooms need to be open to change, pointing out that India Today Group's bilingual newsroom in Hindi and English has helped maintain balance during this transformation. She explained that Hindi-language journalists are now taking more central roles, challenging the dominance of English-speaking, elite-educated professionals, which has led to a more inclusive media environment.

Opinion columnist Brett Stevens from The New York Times discussed broader media challenges, noting that technological shifts and changing expectations are affecting journalism worldwide. He also highlighted the declining public trust in newspapers and television news, citing Gallup polls showing trust levels as low as 18 percent for print and 11 percent for television.

Executive Director of the Lancet Countdown, Mariana Romanello, added that transparency in sourcing and understanding differing viewpoints is essential for media credibility.

Purie concluded that India's media transformation has been significant and largely positive, with bilingual newsrooms and greater inclusion of regional journalists contributing to a more representative industry. She reinforced that while media has room for opinion, its primary responsibility remains observing and reporting history accurately.

The discussion at WEF 2026 reflected global challenges facing journalism, including trust, language, inclusion, and the balance between observation and commentary in an evolving social landscape.

Ala slams global apathy over Uyghur forced labour

WASHINGTON DC

Mamtimin Ala, President of the East Turkistan Government in Exile (ETGE), sharply condemned the Chinese Communist Party (CCP) for the ongoing use of Uyghur forced labour, calling it one of the gravest moral failures of modern history.

He described slavery as one of the oldest moral wrongs, now intensified by turning Uyghur Muslims into "mere instruments for profit" in full view of the world.

Ala emphasized that forced labour goes far beyond financial exploitation, stripping victims of dignity and humanity. He criticized global consumers who unknowingly or knowingly benefit from products made through this system. "Many consumers are aware that the products they purchase are tainted by slave labour, yet they remain indifferent," Ala said, warning that this complicity makes them "hidden enablers" of a global slavery operation of unprecedented scale.

The ETGE President stressed that modern slavery persists not only because of the cruelty and greed of those who impose it but also due to silent global consent. He said enslavers count on consumers' willingness to ignore the problem, turning greed into a worldwide moral collapse.

Ala's comments highlight the moral responsibility of governments, businesses, and individuals to address forced labour and prevent the exploitation of vulnerable populations. He urged international action to end the abuse of Uyghur Muslims and hold perpetrators accountable.

By framing forced labour as a shared global moral failure, Ala called on the world to confront its complicity and ensure that human dignity is upheld in supply chains and consumer markets worldwide.

Baloch rules legalise enforced disappearances

QUETTA

The Balochistan government has approved the "Prevention, Detention and Deradicalisation Rules 2025," triggering criticism for legitimising enforced disappearances.

The rules permit secret detention and interrogation without court oversight, which rights groups say targets activists and families of the missing.

The Human Rights Council of Balochistan reported 1,455 disappearance cases in 2025, with 1,052 still missing and 83 deaths in custody.

Activists warn the framework violates constitutional and international human rights standards and worsens the crisis.

UK counter-terrorism probes targeted attacks

LONDON

Scotland Yard is probing four targeted attacks on Pakistani dissidents in the UK, including a firearm incident, raising fears of foreign state-backed proxies.

Imran Khan supporter Mirza Shahzad Akbar was assaulted repeatedly, his home shot at, vandalised and nearly burned.

One suspect was arrested, bailed, as investigators examine possible attempts to silence critics abroad since Christmas Eve, police say ongoing.

Quetta stir: Pak arrests workers, shuts internet

BALOCHISTAN

Dozens of government employees were arrested in Quetta after authorities blocked a planned sit-in demanding the Disparity Reduction Allowance. The protest was stopped from reaching the city's high-security Red Zone, which was sealed with containers and heavy police presence overnight.

Workers from across Balochistan had gathered in the provincial capital after employee organisations called the sit-in to press for long-pending financial demands. The campaign had already slowed government work, with several departments operating at reduced capacity. When protesters could not enter the Red Zone, many regrouped near the Quetta Press Club, but police prevented the gathering and arrested dozens on the spot.

Authorities also suspended mobile internet services across Quetta and nearby areas, disrupting communication, online banking, navigation, and access to essential information. Civil society members criticized the shutdown, saying it unfairly punished the city's residents for a peaceful protest. Following the arrests, the Balochistan Grand Alliance announced a "jail bharo" campaign, urging government employees to court arrest in protest of what they called the state's heavy-handed response.

Karachi fire: Families protest 'slow action' by authorities

KARACHI

Nearly a week after the devastating fire at Gul Plaza shopping centre, families of missing victims staged protests, expressing anger at what they called slow action by authorities.

Women held photographs of sons, husbands, and brothers near the charred site, demanding faster rescue and accountability.

The fire on January 17 has killed at least 67 people, while dozens remain unaccounted for. Flames spread quickly through the mall, fueled by clothing, cosmetics, and plastic goods. Rescue teams are still working to clear rubble and locate missing persons, but progress has been slow. Families questioned why debris removal has not been completed even six days after the disaster, calling the delay "mentally unbearable."

Protesters ran from office to office seeking information, only to receive vague responses. Frustration escalated on MA Jinnah Road, a main city artery, as some demonstrators tried to push past security barriers to reach the site, hoping faster action might save lives. Police formed a cordon to prevent chaos.

The absence of a full official briefing on missing persons has fueled mistrust. Relatives also confronted Gul Plaza management, demanding immediate acceleration of recovery operations and accountability for the disaster.

Grief-stricken families continue to camp near the site, insisting on clear communication about the number of missing, a swift clearing of debris, and transparency in rescue efforts.

India advances semiconductor goals with Netherlands

VELDHOVEN

Union Electronics and IT Minister Ashwini Vaishnaw highlighted the significance of his visit to Veldhoven, Netherlands, as India advances its semiconductor ambitions. He stressed that lithography—the process of printing circuits onto semiconductor wafers—is the most complex and precision-critical step in chip production.

Vaishnaw underscored the role of ASML, the Dutch-based company and world's leading provider of lithography equipment, which enables almost every semiconductor chip globally. India's upcoming semiconductor fabrication plant in Dholera, Gujarat, will use ASML machinery to manufacture high-quality chips.

Vaishnaw said the visit aimed to study advanced technologies and foster international collaboration. He noted that many global equipment manufacturers are considering establishing operations in India.

SU DO KU

Brain-Bender: Can You Solve It?

		5		9			7	6
6			5		7	9		2
	1	9		6			5	
8		3	7		6		9	
	9			4		2		8
4		2	9		1	5		7
9	7			1		6		
	6		4		9		2	1
3		1		5		7		

9	5	4	3	7	1	8	6	2
6	3	7	8	9	2	1	5	4
1	2	8	5	6	4	9	3	7
8	4	9	6	2	3	5	7	1
5	6	1	7	8	9	2	4	3
3	7	2	1	4	5	6	9	8
2	9	6	4	3	8	7	1	5
7	1	3	2	5	6	4	8	9
4	8	5	9	1	7	3	2	6

Solutions to Yesterday's puzzle

Fill a 9×9 grid with numbers so that each row, column and 3×3 section contain all of the digits between 1 and 9.

ICE CONTROVERSY

Kamala Harris condemns child detention by ICE

WASHINGTON DC

Former US Vice President Kamala Harris expressed outrage after a five-year-old child was taken to a Texas detention center by US Immigration and Customs Enforcement (ICE). Harris said the child should be with family and not "used as bait" by authorities.

Harris's comments came after an ICE operation aimed at arresting the child's father on January 20. Tricia McLaughlin, Assistant Secretary of the Department of Homeland Security, defended ICE, saying the father abandoned the child and authorities made multiple attempts to have the mother take custody. The mother reportedly refused, and the father requested the child remain with him. ICE officers reportedly ensured the child's safety, even providing food and playing favorite music. The father and child remain together at Dilley.

McLaughlin also noted that parents have the option to leave with their children or designate a safe person for custody. She added that this practice is consistent with past administrations and that families can use the CBP Home app to manage departure and reentry legally.

The child and family, originally from Ecuador, applied for asylum at the Texas border in December 2024, according to their lawyer, Marc Prokosch. He stressed they are following legal procedures and are not illegal immigrants.

Local school superintendent Zena Stenvik confirmed the child was removed from a family car during the operation. The case has sparked debate over immigration enforcement and child welfare, drawing criticism from public figures and raising questions about ICE procedures in sensitive situations.

Harris concluded that Americans should share her outrage, highlighting the tension between immigration enforcement and the protection of children in such operations.

QUICK READ

India-Japan deepen strategic economic ties

New Delhi

The foreign ministers of India and Japan met in New Delhi this month, showing stronger ties between the two countries. External Affairs Minister S. Jaishankar and Japan's Toshimitsu Motegi reviewed a joint vision set during Prime Minister Narendra Modi's August 2025 visit to Japan. The talks matched ten years of Japan's Indo-Pacific plan. Both sides approved a private sector dialogue on economic security from early 2026, covering chips, minerals, clean energy, ICT, medicines, and closer AI cooperation.

Indian equity markets in consolidation mode

Mumbai

Indian equity markets are moving through a consolidation phase, not a long-term change, a report said on Friday. The study noted that stocks are trading at low levels compared to gold and silver. In such times, spreading investments beyond equities has helped reduce risk. PL Asset Management said strong domestic fundamentals remain, but global uncertainty and weak investor mood have limited gains. Market returns are being led by only a few stocks.

Centre approves wage, pension revisions

New Delhi

The Centre on Friday approved long-pending wage revisions for public sector general insurance companies and NABARD, along with pension revisions for RBI and NABARD retirees. Around 46,000 employees and over 46,000 pensioners and family pensioners will benefit. PSGIC wages will rise by 12.41 per cent from August 1, 2022, including higher basic pay. The move also raises NPS contributions and revises family pensions, with a total cost of Rs 8,170 crore.

Budget 2026 sees higher taxes, capex with fiscal

A new report outlines revenue growth, spending priorities and fiscal discipline ahead of Budget 2026

NEW DELHI

India's gross tax revenue is projected to rise by 9.6% in FY27, slightly below the expected nominal GDP growth of 10.1 per cent. CareEdge Ratings said direct tax collections are likely to improve as income and corporate tax receipts recover gradually during the year.

The report added that government capital expenditure is expected to grow 10 per cent to Rs 12.3 trillion in FY27, supporting infrastructure creation and long-term economic growth.

The fiscal deficit is projected to be budgeted between 4.2–4.3 per cent in the same year, showing continued focus on fiscal discipline. Gross market borrowing is expected to remain high, ranging between Rs 16 and 17 trillion in FY27, while net borrowing may stand at around Rs 11.5 to 12 trillion.

Although GST rate rationalisation could affect collections, the report noted that GST revenues should still show gradual improvement as economic activity strengthens. Non-tax revenues have remained strong this year due to a higher dividend transfer from the Reserve Bank of India, pushing non-tax receipts up sharply. The RBI dividend is expected to stay elevated at Rs 2 to 2.5 trillion in FY27, compared with Rs 2.7 trillion estimated for FY26.

The agency also warned that non-debt capital receipts could fall short by about Rs 0.2 trillion in FY26. An increase in excise duty on tobacco products, effective February 1, 2026, is expected to support excise duty growth in the coming year. Another report said Budget 2026 will stress fiscal prudence while prioritising defence.

Assam-WEF to set up Centre of Excellence: Himanta

GUWAHATI

Assam Chief Minister Himanta Biswa Sarma on Friday announced that the state will set up a Centre of Excellence in collaboration with the World Economic Forum, marking a major step in global engagement.

The decision was taken during meetings with the WEF leadership on the sidelines of the annual Davos summit. The proposed centre will focus on a theme of national and state importance, linking Assam's development goals with global best practices and new economic trends.

Sarma said the initiative will allow Assam to tap international knowledge networks and expert policy support. He added that the state is building a long term partnership with the WEF, enabling regular participation in its global platforms and discussions. This engagement is expected to give Assam higher visibility among global investors, policymakers and business leaders.

During his interactions, the Chief Minister said Assam follows a focused and inclusive investment strategy. He stressed that every investor is treated as a VIP and receives personal attention, regardless of project size.

Key points

- Centre of Excellence with WEF
- Global knowledge & policy networks
- Focus on investment & infrastructure
- Taps hydrocarbons & renewable energy

Highlighting the Northeast's rising economic role, Sarma said the region is seeing fast infrastructure growth, shown by higher cement use and industrial activity. He pointed to strong potential in hydrocarbons, renewable energy, tourism and agriculture based industries, the Centre of Excellence will help Assam design forward looking policies, attract quality investments and connect better with global value chains.

He said the state's presence at Davos aims to build real partnerships that create jobs, strengthen infrastructure and ensure long term economic stability. Officials believe the initiative will also support skill development, innovation, research collaboration and balanced regional growth across Assam in coming years through public and private partnerships.

ODOP transforms local products into global brands

NEW DELHI

The Centre's One District-One Product initiative has expanded to more than 770 districts by December 2025, turning many areas into growing economic hubs. According to an official statement issued on Friday, the scheme helps local farmers, artisans and small producers make goods for national and international markets. Each district identifies one unique product and receives branding support, market access, training and institutional backing. These products are now displayed at global trade fairs, giving traditional skills wider recognition.

More than 1,200 products from textiles, food items, handicrafts and minerals are listed on the digital portal of the Department for Promotion of Industry and Internal Trade. Market links have expanded through ODOP stores on the Government e-Marketplace and state e-commerce platforms. The scheme follows a flexible but structured model, led jointly by central ministries, state governments and district administrations. States select products based on local strengths and inform DPIIT.

Through platforms like the GeM-ODOP Bazaar, artisans are reaching wider buyers. The scheme offers Rs 5,000 crore in interest-free support, with at least Rs 100 crore for each state. Unity Malls are also being built, with 29 approved across 27 states. The initiative began in 2018 in Moradabad, Uttar Pradesh, famous for brassware, and later expanded nationwide.

Uttar Pradesh, the first state to adopt ODOP, has seen exports rise sharply. Exports grew 76 per cent from Rs 88,967 crore in 2017-18 to Rs 1.71 lakh crore in 2023-24. Projects worth Rs 6,000 crore were approved, and over 1.25 crore artisans received training and modern tools.

At the Uttar Pradesh International Trade Show 2025, ODOP stalls generated strong interest, business leads and deals worth Rs 20.77 crore, highlighting the scheme's national and global impact and future growth prospects.

'Less than 15% of TSMC processes in US by 2029'

TAIPEI

Experts say less than 15 per cent of Taiwan Semiconductor Manufacturing Company's advanced chip making processes will shift to the United States by 2029. This view was shared by economist Lien Hsien-ming after comments by US Commerce Secretary Howard Lutnick, who said Washington wants to move 40 per cent of Taiwan's supply chain to America before President Donald Trump's second term ends.

TSMC is investing 65 billion dollars in three factories in Arizona. The first plant began commercial production in late 2024. The company has also pledged another 100 billion dollars for three more factories, two assembly units and a research centre. Lien said equipment installation has started at the second Arizona factory, which is expected to begin mass production in 2027. Construction of the third factory began earlier this year, and TSMC has applied for permission to build a fourth plant.

Based on production plans and total output, Lien estimated that under 15 per cent of TSMC's advanced processes will be based in the US by 2029. He added that pressure on TSMC could reduce if companies like Intel, Micron and Samsung succeed with their American projects.

The report also noted a US Taiwan agreement to cut tariffs on Taiwanese goods to 15 per cent. The deal includes 250 billion dollars in Taiwanese investment, with government credit support.

French Galette now sells out daily at Roast CCx

HYDERABAD

At Roast CCx, a French pastry has quietly become a daily sell-out, driven by skill, consistency, and technique rather than marketing. The traditional Galette, crafted by Corporate Pastry Chef Joakim Prat, a veteran of Michelin-starred kitchens across Europe, has steadily won over Hyderabad's diners.

When first introduced, the Galette was not promoted as a signature item but allowed to find its audience naturally. Over weeks, customers discovered its crisp, buttery layers and delicate sweetness, boosting demand. Today, it is one of Roast CCx's most sought-after offerings, selling out daily.

The Galette reflects classical French pastry discipline, with precise lamination, high-quality butter, and controlled sweetness. Chef Joakim's Michelin-trained approach emphasizes consistency, restraint, and respect for fundamentals, which now shapes Roast CCx's pastry program and kitchen training standards.

Mr. Bhanu, Restaurant Manager, said, "The Galette rewards patience. It wasn't designed to be a trend. It was designed to be correct, and guests responded over time." The pastry's rise also highlights Hyderabad diners' growing appreciation for technique-driven, globally inspired desserts over novelty-led items. Building on this success, Chef Joakim is preparing to introduce an expanded bakery and pastry range at Roast CCx in the coming weeks.

Founded in 2019, Roast CCx has grown from a boutique coffee shop to a multi-outlet cafe brand worth over ₹250 crore. Its flagship in Banjara Hills features India's first Loring S70 Peregrine air-roasting system, a 15,000 sq. ft. pastry lab, a private theatre, and a coffee education studio.

Precious metals surge as Dollar slides, ME tensions rise

NEW DELHI

Gold and silver prices soared to record highs on Friday, driven by a weaker US dollar and rising tensions in the Middle East. Fresh warnings of potential US military action against Iran added to investor caution, pushing safe-haven demand.

On the domestic MCX exchange, gold February futures rose 1.23 per cent to Rs 1,58,261 per 10 grams by 11.25 am. Silver March futures surged 2.63 per cent to Rs 3,35,900 per kg. Globally, gold touched a lifetime high of $4,967 before trading near $4,951, while silver reached $98.92 on the COMEX before consolidating around $98.30–$98.70. Analysts said previous gold resistance at $4,900–$4,940 has now become support, bolstering a positive outlook.

Geopolitical concerns shaped sentiment further. US President Donald Trump said an American "armada," including the USS Abraham Lincoln and destroyers, is moving toward Iran, while warning Tehran against reviving its nuclear programme. Hints of European countries reducing US Treasury exposure also added to safe-haven demand.

Technical analysts expect gold support between Rs 1,54,650–Rs 1,52,310 and resistance at Rs 1,58,850–Rs 1,60,150. For silver, support lies at Rs 3,20,810–Rs 3,10,170, with resistance between Rs 3,31,810–Rs 3,37,470.

A report by Motilal Oswal noted silver's extraordinary 200 per cent rally over the past year, outpacing gold's 80 per cent rise. The steep climb from around Rs 60,000 to Rs 3,20,000 may trigger consolidation at higher levels, as investors reassess positions.

JioBlackRock launches rotation equity fund

NEW DELHI

JioBlackRock Asset Management on Friday announced the launch of the JioBlackRock Sector Rotation Fund, an equity scheme powered by artificial intelligence.

The fund uses BlackRock's Systematic Active Equities approach to rotate investments across sectors based on changing market conditions. It is the latest offering from the 50:50 joint venture between Jio Financial Services and BlackRock.

According to the company, the fund aims to complement core equity investments by focusing on sector-level opportunities instead of picking individual stocks. Unlike flexicap funds, which rely on bottom-up stock selection, this scheme adjusts sector exposure as economic trends evolve. The new fund offer will open on January 27, 2026, and close on February 9, 2026.

The investment framework uses quantitative models and AI tools to analyse market, macroeconomic and earnings signals. It converts large data sets, including social media trends and job data, into usable investment insights. This method reduces human bias and allows consistent, repeatable decisions.

The fund follows a risk-controlled and benchmark-aware strategy, aiming to outperform the Nifty 500 Index. Chief Investment Officer Rishi Kohli said sector leadership often changes due to shifts in technology, consumption patterns, geopolitics and global supply chains.

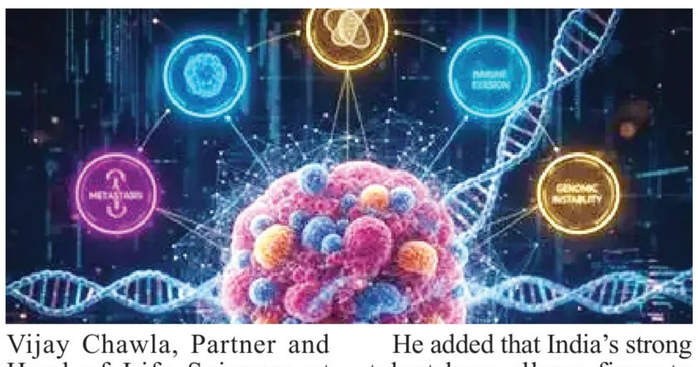
AI SHIFT

Indian life sciences firms accelerate AI adoption

NEW DELHI

India's life sciences sector is rapidly adopting artificial intelligence and digital tools. The study, prepared by KPMG, shows that industry leaders are moving beyond trials and are now using technology to improve growth, efficiency and innovation.

Based on a survey of 110 global life sciences leaders, the report said Indian chief executives are also investing in skills development, helping the sector move toward long-term and sustainable growth.



Vijay Chawla, Partner and Head of Life Sciences at KPMG in India, said companies are scaling AI, reshaping operations and making clear investment choices.

He added that India's strong talent base allows firms to combine innovation with cost efficiency, improving their global position. Globally, more than 80% of life sciences CEOs believe AI is vital for growth, lower emissions and better energy use. The report noted that leaders are focusing on full execution, strategic mergers and acquisitions, and workforce changes. About 86% expect deal-making activity to continue, while many are adjusting plans to manage market risks.

Around 73% plan to spend up to one-fifth of technology budgets on AI. Cybersecurity remains a concern, but CEOs are prioritising talent, ESG goals, sustainability and measurable returns in coming years, the report added.

Industry experts say this shift will strengthen healthcare delivery, research, manufacturing quality and global competitiveness, while supporting cleaner operations, skilled jobs and long-term value creation across India's expanding life sciences ecosystem over the next decade. Analysts believe policy support, data security, training programmes and AI governance will be key to maintaining momentum and trust among patients, partners and investors nationwide.

JPMorgan shares soar, CEO Dimon's salary reaches US$43 mn

NEW YORK

JPMorgan Chase CEO Jamie Dimon earned a total of $43 million in 2025, marking a 10% increase from the previous year, according to a regulatory filing. His package included a $1.5 million base salary and $41.5 million in performance-based incentives, reflecting strong leadership and the bank's solid financial results. JPMorgan highlighted Dimon's role in maintaining a "fortress balance sheet" and aligning pay with performance across its businesses.

Dimon has led JPMorgan since 2006 and is seen as a key figure connecting Wall Street with Washington and global markets. The board praised his leadership, focus on developing top executives, and dedication to serving shareholders.

The pay disclosure came just hours after former President Donald Trump filed a $5 billion lawsuit against JPMorgan and Dimon, claiming the bank "debanked" him for political reasons after the January 6, 2021, Capitol events.

JPMorgan, valued at approximately $830 billion, saw its shares rise 0.4% in New York trading on Thursday.

The Oil War Around the World

For over a century, oil has been the lifeblood of modern civilization, powering everything from automobiles to entire economies. This black gold has shaped international relations, sparked conflicts, and determined the rise and fall of nations. The struggle for control over oil resources, often termed the oil war, represents one of the most enduring and consequential competitions in modern history. This invisible yet ever-present conflict continues to reshape geopolitics, influence military interventions, and drive economic strategies across every continent.

The Historical Foundation of Oil Conflicts

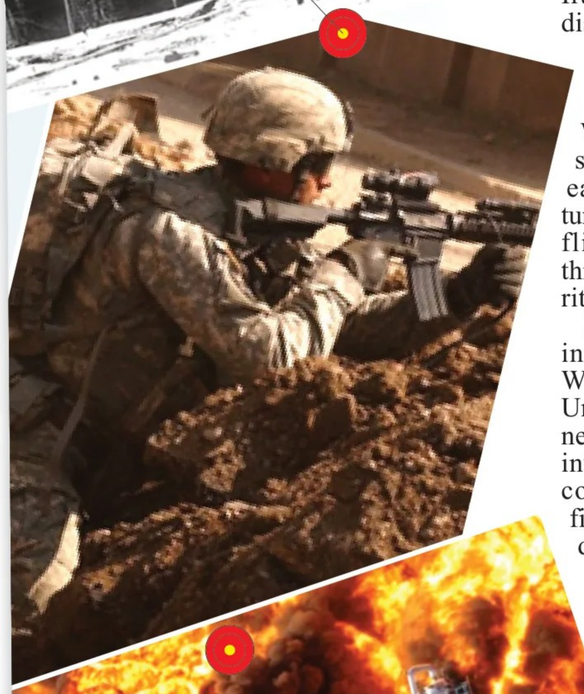
The oil war began in earnest in the early 20th century when industrialized nations recognized petroleum's strategic importance. The transition from coal to oil for naval vessels before World War I marked a turning point, transforming oil from a commodity into a matter of national security. Winston Churchill's decision to convert the British Royal Navy to oil power in 1911 exemplified this shift, creating an immediate dependence on foreign oil supplies, particularly from Persia.

The aftermath of World War I saw the first major international scramble for oil resources. The dissolution of the Ottoman Empire led to the carving up of the Middle East by European powers, with oil considerations playing a central role in drawing new borders. The Sykes-Picot Agreement and subsequent treaties reflected British and French interests in securing access to Mesopotamian oil fields, setting precedents for foreign intervention that would echo throughout the century.

The Seven Sisters, a consortium of Western oil companies, dominated global oil production and distribution throughout much of the 20th century. These corporations wielded enormous power, often operating with the backing of their home governments to secure favorable concessions from oil-producing nations. This arrangement created deep resentments that would later fuel nationalist movements and contribute to the geopolitical tensions we see today.

OPEC and the Shift in Power Dynamics

The formation of the Organization of the Petroleum Exporting Countries in 1960 marked a watershed moment in the oil war. Venezuela, Saudi Arabia, Iran, Iraq, and Kuwait founded OPEC to coordinate petroleum policies and secure fair prices for their resources. This represented a fundamental challenge to Western corporate dominance and the beginning of a power shift from oil consumers to oil producers. The 1973 oil embargo demonstrated OPEC's newfound leverage. In response to Western support for Israel during the Yom Kippur War, Arab members of OPEC imposed an oil embargo on the United States and other nations. Oil prices quadrupled, triggering economic crises across the developed world and revealing the vulnerability of oil-dependent economies. The embargo transformed oil into an explicit weapon of economic warfare, proving that control over production could be as powerful as military might. This period witnessed the rise of petrostates, nations whose economies and political systems became fundamentally structured around oil exports. Countries like Saudi Arabia, Kuwait, and the United Arab Emirates accumulated vast wealth and international influence. However, this also created what economists call the resource curse, where oil wealth led to corruption, economic distortion.



CONCLUSION: An Evolving Conflict

The oil war around the world remains far from resolved. While the nature of the conflict evolves, competition for energy resources continues to shape international relations, drive military strategies, and determine economic fates. The rise of renewable energy introduces new dimensions to this competition rather than ending it, as nations now compete for dominance in green technologies and critical minerals needed for batteries and solar panels. The legacy of the oil war includes environmental degradation, regional instability, and economic inequality. Yet oil also powered unprecedented technological advancement and raised living standards for billions of people. As the world navigates the energy transition, understanding the oil war's history and dynamics remains essential for making informed decisions about our energy future. The coming decades will determine whether humanity can manage a transition away from fossil fuels without triggering new conflicts over resources and economic opportunities. The oil war may eventually become history, but the patterns of competition, alliance, and conflict it established will likely persist in new forms.

The Persian Gulf: The Epicenter of Oil Conflicts

The Persian Gulf region contains approximately 48 percent of the world's proven oil reserves, making it the focal point of international oil competition. The Iranian Revolution of 1979 disrupted global oil markets and introduced religious ideology into oil politics. The subsequent Iran-Iraq War from 1980 to 1988 saw both nations targeting each other's oil infrastructure, demonstrating how conflicts in the region could threaten global energy security.

Iraq's invasion of Kuwait in 1990 triggered the Gulf War, explicitly framed by the United States and its allies as necessary to protect vital oil interests. Saddam Hussein's control over Kuwait's oil fields would have given Iraq dominance over a significant portion of global reserves, threatening the economic interests of major powers. The swift military response underscored how oil considerations could override other diplomatic considerations and justify large-scale military intervention. The 2003 invasion of Iraq by the United States and coalition forces remains one of the most controversial episodes in the modern oil war. While officially justified on grounds of weapons of mass destruction and terrorism.

Russia's Energy Dominance Strategy

Russia has leveraged its vast oil and natural gas reserves as instruments of geopolitical power, particularly in its relations with Europe. As one of the world's largest oil producers and the dominant supplier of natural gas to European nations, Russia has used energy exports as both an economic engine and a political weapon. The conflicts in Ukraine, particularly Russia's annexation of Crimea in 2014 and the full-scale invasion in 2022, have energy dimensions that cannot be ignored. and control over Ukraine's territory affects Russia's ability to project energy power. The subsequent Western sanctions on Russian oil and the European Union's efforts to reduce dependence on Russian energy have reshaped global oil flows and accelerated transitions toward alternative energy sources.

The formation of OPEC+ represents a new phase in the oil war, where traditional OPEC members coordinate with major non-OPEC producers to manage global supply.

Venezuela's Resource Curse

Venezuela possesses the world's largest proven oil reserves, yet the nation has experienced economic collapse and humanitarian crisis. The story of Venezuela illustrates how oil wealth can become a curse when coupled with mismanagement, corruption, and over-dependence on a single commodity.

Under Hugo Chávez and his successor Nicolás Maduro, Venezuela nationalized oil production and used revenues for social programs and political patronage. However, underinvestment in infrastructure, technical expertise drain, and economic sanctions devastated production capacity. What was once one of the world's most prosperous Latin American nations descended into hyperinflation and mass emigration.

The international response to Venezuela's crisis reveals the oil war's complexity. The United States imposed sanctions aimed at pressuring the Maduro government, while China and Russia provided financial support in exchange for oil supply agreements. This created a situation where Venezuela's oil resources became pawns in a larger geopolitical competition between global powers, with the Venezuelan people bearing the consequences.

The Shale Revolution and American Energy Independence

The development of hydraulic fracturing and horizontal drilling technologies triggered a revolution in American oil production. The shale boom transformed the United States from a major oil importer to one of the world's leading producers, fundamentally altering global oil dynamics.

American energy independence reduced vulnerability to Middle Eastern supply disruptions and provided greater flexibility in foreign policy. The United States could afford to be more selective in its engagements in oil-producing regions, though its interests in maintaining global oil market stability remained. The shale revolution also challenged OPEC's pricing power, as American producers could respond more quickly to price signals than traditional producers.

However, shale oil production carries environmental concerns, including water contamination risks, methane emissions, and seismic activity. The industry's boom-and-bust cycles, driven by volatile oil prices, also created economic instability in producing regions. The tension between energy security, economic interests, and environmental protection became increasingly central to debates about energy policy.

China's Quest for Energy Security

China's rapid industrialization and economic growth made it the world's largest energy consumer and a major oil importer. This dependence created strategic vulnerabilities that Chinese policymakers sought to address through multiple approaches.

China's Belt and Road Initiative includes significant energy infrastructure investments across Asia, Africa, and the Middle East. By financing pipelines, ports, and refineries, China secures long-term supply agreements and builds influence in oil-producing nations. Chinese state-owned companies have acquired stakes in oil fields from Kazakhstan to Venezuela, diversifying supply sources and reducing dependence on any single region. The Strait of Malacca, through which most of China's oil imports pass, represents a strategic chokepoint that could be blockaded in a conflict. This vulnerability drives Chinese naval expansion and efforts to develop alternative supply routes, including pipelines through Central Asia and Myanmar. China's South China Sea territorial claims also relate partly to potential offshore oil and gas resources, adding an energy dimension to regional maritime disputes.

Climate Change and the Future of the Oil War

The growing recognition of climate change as an existential threat has introduced a new dimension to the oil war. The transition toward renewable energy sources threatens the economic models of oil-producing nations and challenges the geopolitical structures built around fossil fuels.

Major oil companies face pressure from investors, governments, and public opinion to reduce carbon emissions and invest in clean energy. Some nations, particularly in Europe, have set ambitious targets for phasing out fossil fuels. This creates tension between the immediate economic interests of oil producers and the long-term survival imperatives driven by climate science.

However, the transition away from oil will not be smooth or uniform. Developing nations argue that they should not be denied the same development opportunities that fossil fuels provided to industrialized countries. Oil-producing nations face the prospect of stranded assets and economic disruption if global demand declines before they can diversify their economies. This creates incentives to maximize oil revenues while markets still exist.

- Russia uses oil gas exports as geopolitical leverage over Europe.
- Ukraine conflicts reshape energy power balances sanctions alter oil flows.
- OPEC+ alliance coordinates supply reshaping traditional oil market power dynamics.
- Venezuela's oil wealth turned curse through mismanagement corruption sanctions collapse.
- US shale revolution boosts production challenges OPEC and strengthens independence.
- Shale boom brings environmental risks price volatility regional economic instability.
- China secures energy via Belt Road investments diversification routes globally.
- Climate change pushes energy transition threatens oil states geopolitical order.

Dani Olmo emerges as Hansi Flick's key attacking weapon at Barcelona

Versatile playmaker gives Flick tactical freedom across Barcelona's attack

BARCELONA

Dani Olmo has quietly established himself as one of Barcelona's most important players this season, not merely through goals and assists, but through the tactical flexibility and balance he brings to Hansi Flick's attacking setup.

Often described as the "Eric Garcia of attack," Olmo mirrors the defender's adaptability by thriving in multiple roles without compromising performance. Just as Garcia can slot in across the back line or midfield, Olmo offers Flick rare versatility in the final third. Whether deployed on either wing, as a central attacking midfielder or even as a false nine, the 25-year-old consistently elevates Barcelona's attacking rhythm.

At his core, Olmo remains a natural playmaker. He excels between the lines, links midfield and attack seamlessly, and is constantly involved in dangerous phases of play. In Flick's preferred system, Olmo frequently operates as a No. 10, acting as the creative connector who dictates tempo and exploits pockets of space.

Competition for that role exists, with Fermin Lopez pushing strongly and Raphinha also used centrally in certain fixtures. However, Olmo's forward-thinking instincts set him apart. He is at his most dangerous when given freedom to attack the box, while his technical security ensures the team's structure remains intact.

Statistically, playing as a pure midfielder has been Olmo's least common role across his career.

Since returning to Barcelona, he has started 13 matches from midfield, contributing three goals and three assists. His ability to adapt has also seen Flick deploy him as a false nine, a move that strengthens midfield control without dulling Barcelona's attacking edge.

The role is familiar territory for Olmo, who played as a centre forward in Barcelona's youth ranks and has featured 13 times there in professional football. Additionally, his experience as a winger — 52 matches with 15 goals and 15 assists — further underlines his value.

Gibbs-White fails from the spot as Forest pay for errors in Braga

BRAGA

Nottingham Forest's long-awaited return to European football ended in frustration as a catalogue of errors condemned them to a narrow defeat against Braga at the Estádio Municipal de Braga.

Gibbs-White penalty miss and Yates own goal doom Forest in Braga defeat.

Forest, making their first continental appearance in almost three decades, struggled to match the occasion. The decisive moment arrived shortly after the restart when Morgan Gibbs-White failed to convert a penalty, only for captain Ryan Yates to divert the ball into his own net moments later in a damaging sequence that summed up the visitors' night.

After a scrappy first half lacking fluency, Forest were handed a golden opportunity five minutes into the second period. James McAtee went down under pressure in the box and, following a lengthy VAR check, the referee pointed to the spot. Gibbs-White's delayed attempt, however, lacked power and conviction, allowing Braga goalkeeper Lukas Hornicek to dive low and save comfortably.

Braga immediately capitalised. Within a minute, Ricardo Horta broke down the left and squared the ball across goal, where Yates, sliding back in desperation, inadvertently turned it past Matz Sels. The own goal proved decisive despite Forest registering five shots on target to Braga's none.

Sean Dyche's side looked short of ideas going forward, a problem compounded by the absence of an orthodox striker. With injuries and eligibility issues ruling out key forwards, winger Dan Ndoye led the line, but Forest's attacking play lacked sharpness and cohesion.

Tempers flared late on when substitute Elliot Anderson was shown a straight red card for dissent in stoppage time, further angering the 2,100 travelling supporters, who voiced their displeasure at full-time.

After drawing with Premier League leaders Arsenal last weekend, this defeat marked a sobering setback for Forest, who now have just one win in their last eight matches across all competitions. The sense of occasion was unmistakable, but so too was the work still required if Forest are to make their European return a memorable one for the right reasons.

Soorma fall short despite 6-1 win as HIL playoffs loom

BHUBANESWAR

JSW Soorma Hockey Club ended their Hockey India League league stage with a convincing 6-1 win over SG Pipers but fell short of the seven-goal margin required to advance to Qualifier 2. Despite a dominant display, the dying minutes saw Pipers hold firm, denying Soorma a place in the playoffs.

Soorma started with intensity, as Jeremy Hayward scored four times (2', 7', 34', 45') via powerful drag flicks. Lucas Martinez added a counter-attacking strike in the 11th minute, while Nicolas Keenan completed the tally in the 47th. Tomas Domene netted a consolation goal for the Pipers, leaving Soorma just shy of their playoff target. A seven-goal victory would have allowed them to leapfrog HIL GC into the next stage based on goal difference. With Soorma out, the focus now shifts to Qualifier 1 and the eliminator at the iconic Kalinga Hockey Stadium on Friday.

Manchester City superstar playing his way out of Real Madrid move

MADRID

Real Madrid may be reconsidering their long-standing interest in Manchester City midfielder Rodri as the Spanish international endures a worrying downturn in form during a turbulent spell for Pep Guardiola's side.

Los Blancos enjoyed their best night of the season, hammering Monaco 6-1 at the Santiago Bernabeu in the Champions League under caretaker manager Álvaro Arbeloa. While Madrid surged, City faltered badly, suffering a shock 3-1 defeat to Norwegian side Bodo/Glimt in Europe, days after losing the Manchester derby to United.

Rodri's return from a hamstring injury in January was expected to steady City's midfield and reignite their title challenge. Instead, his comeback has coincided with a dramatic slump. Since re-entering Guardiola's starting XI, City have failed to win a Premier League match, drawing against Sunderland, Chelsea and Brighton before the damaging European loss in Norway.

The defeat to Bodo/Glimt proved particularly costly for Rodri. After City clawed a goal back, the 29-year-old was sent off, leaving his side exposed and reinforcing concerns about his declining influence. Injuries in recent seasons appear to have taken a toll, raising questions over whether the Ballon d'Or winner is past his peak.

Real Madrid have been loosely linked with Rodri amid speculation over Guardiola's future at the Etihad and the midfielder's contract, which runs until 2027. However, his recent performances suggest such a move would be a significant gamble, both financially and tactically.

Florentino Pérez is now likely to explore alternative midfield reinforcements. Crystal Palace's Adam Wharton and AZ Alkmaar's Kees Smit are both admired at the Bernabeu, while bigger names such as Chelsea's Moisés Caicedo remain long-shot options. For a more economical solution, VfB Stuttgart's Angelo Stiller also fits Madrid's evolving profile.

Casemiro to depart Manchester United at season's end

MANCHESTER : Manchester United confirmed that midfielder Casemiro will leave the club at the end of the 2025–26 season upon the expiry of his contract.

The 33-year-old Brazilian had a one-year extension option, but the club has chosen not to activate it as part of a broader squad overhaul. Casemiro had requested that his summer departure be announced in advance.

"I will carry Manchester United with me throughout my entire life," Casemiro said. "From the first day that I walked out at this beautiful stadium, I felt the passion of Old Trafford and the love that I now share with our supporters of this special club."

Casemiro arrived at Old Trafford in August 2022 from Real Madrid for around £60 million ($80.9 million). During his four years at United, he became a midfield anchor, scoring 21 goals in 146 appearances and helping the club secure the 2023 League Cup—scoring a decisive header in the 2-0 final win over Newcastle United—and the 2024 FA Cup.

The midfielder added, "It's not time to say goodbye; there are many more memories to create during the next four months. We still have a lot to fight for together; my complete focus will, as always, remain on giving my everything to help our club succeed."

United are currently fifth in the Premier League, 15 points behind leaders Arsenal ahead of their Emirates Stadium clash on Sunday. The team is buoyed by a 2-0 derby victory over Manchester City, the first game under caretaker manager Michael Carrick following the sacking of Ruben Amorim.

Casemiro posted an emotional farewell on social media, sharing a montage of his time with the club.

M'rashtra Kesari take 3–2 lead over UP at Pro Wrestling League

NOIDA

Maharashtra Kesari moved ahead 3–2 against UP Dominators at the halfway stage of Match 9 in the Pro Wrestling League 2026, held at the Noida Indoor Stadium. UP Dominators, who entered the contest atop the table with two wins from three matches, started strongly, but Maharashtra rallied with three successive victories to seize the lead. The action began in the 86kg men's bout as world championships medallist Mykhailov Vasyl delivered a dominant performance against Amit, winning 15–3 and giving UP a 1–0 lead. UP extended their advantage in the 57kg women's contest, where U20 World Wrestling Champion Tapsya Gahlawat staged a thrilling comeback against Manisha Bhanvala. With a decisive Power Minute takedown-and-turn, Gahlawat won 12–9, putting UP ahead 2–0. Maharashtra Kesari responded in the heavyweight category through captain Robert Baran. Baran's timely takedowns and a decisive exposure in the final phase saw him defeat Jaspooran Singh 10–2, putting Maharashtra on the scoreboard. Momentum shifted further in the 74kg men's bout, where Yash stayed composed in a tactical contest, securing a 5–2 victory with a late takedown to level the tie 2–2.

Tilottama Sen shines again, claims 10m air rifle title at National Trials

NEW DELHI

Tilottama Sen continued her remarkable run at the National Selection Trials 1&2 Group A, claiming the top spot in the 10m Air Rifle Women (ARW) event at the Karni Singh Shooting Range. After sweeping the 50m 3P event, the junior national champion demonstrated composure and control to rise from the last qualifying spot to gold in the final.

Sen entered the final as the eighth qualifier with a score of 630.8 but steadily climbed to finish on top with 253.4. Railways' Sonam Uttam Maskar, who qualified fifth with 631.2, put up a strong fight but settled for silver with 252.8, while Madhya Pradesh's Nupur Kumrawat claimed bronze with 230.5. Top qualifier Shruti of Haryana (633.2) ended fifth, and Maharashtra's Isha Anil Taksale (631.1) took fourth.

In the men's 10m Air Rifle (ARM) T1 final, Shahu Tushar Mane of Railways clinched gold with a score of 253.9, rising from fifth in qualification (632.6). Haryana's Arshdeep Singh finished second with 251.1, and Maharashtra's Parth Rakesh Mane earned bronze with 230.5. Notably, Olympian Arjun Babuta, who led qualification with 635.1, ended sixth in the final.

In the 25m Rapid Fire Pistol Men T2 final, Olympian Vijayveer Sidhu shot 31 hits to secure gold. National champion Suraj Sharma, who dominated qualification with 588-22x, took silver after hitting 29 in the final, while Punjab's Udhayveer Sidhu earned bronze with 25 hits.

With Tilottama Sen's continued dominance and strong performances from Shahu Mane and Vijayveer Sidhu, the first day of trials showcased India's rising shooting talent and set a high benchmark ahead of the next stages of selection.

Sen Shines at Selection Trials

Tilottama Sen continued her impressive form at the National Selection Trials, winning gold in the 10m Air Rifle Women event at the Karni Singh Shooting Range, New Delhi. The junior national champion climbed from eighth in qualification to finish first with 253.4 in the final.

Australian Open schedule shifted earlier as 40C heat forecast hits Melbourne

MELBOURNE

The Australian Open will kick off earlier than usual today, January 24, as Melbourne faces scorching temperatures of up to 40C, forcing organizers to adjust the schedule to protect players and spectators. Play on the main arenas will now begin at 10:30 a.m., earlier than the standard 11:00–11:30 a.m., while other courts will start as early as 10:00 a.m. Tournament director Craig Tiley said the decision aims to take advantage of cooler morning conditions. "We expect pleasant conditions tomorrow morning, in the mid-20s, and will start play earlier to avoid the peak heat," he said, urging fans to take precautions against sun exposure and dehydration.

Top players, including Novak Djokovic, reigning champions Jannik Sinner and Madison Keys, are scheduled to compete on Saturday. While temperatures are expected to peak in the late afternoon, conditions should return to more typical levels on Sunday before spiking again to 43C on Tuesday.

Three-time runner-up Daniil Medvedev, who does not play on Saturday, expressed concerns about the extreme weather affecting practice. "Worst case, if it's too hot, we can always go indoors. I would prefer outdoors," he said. "It's going to be interesting to watch on TV. Let's see how the guys cope. Hopefully no heat stroke."

The Australian Open rules allow the tournament referee to suspend play or order additional cooling breaks during extreme weather. Courts with retractable roofs, including Rod Laver Arena, may have their covers closed if conditions worsen.

India hopes T20 World Cup will boost global sporting stature, but controversy threatens image

T20 World Cup row clouds India's Olympic ambitions

NEW DELHI

India's ambition to project itself as a global sporting powerhouse and future Olympic host has been overshadowed by a growing controversy around next month's T20 Cricket World Cup, triggered by a diplomatic row with Bangladesh and allegations of political interference in the sport.

With less than two weeks to go for the tournament's February 7 start, Bangladesh are on the brink of missing the World Cup after the International Cricket Council (ICC) rejected their request to shift matches from India to co-host Sri Lanka, citing the absence of any credible security threat. Bangladesh Cricket Board president Aminul Islam Bulbul said the team would not travel to India unless the venue was changed.

India sees the T20 World Cup as a showcase event ahead of its bids to host the 2030 Commonwealth Games in Ahmedabad and the 2036 Olympic Games. However, the delayed release of the World Cup schedule and the uncertainty surrounding Bangladesh's participation have raised concerns over organisational credibility, especially with cricket set to return to the Olympics at Los Angeles 2028.

Bulbul warned that excluding Bangladesh — a cricket-mad nation of nearly 200 million people — would hurt the ICC and the sport's global reach. The ICC, however, said it remained committed to safeguarding the collective interests of world cricket.

Critics argue that India's dominance within global cricket governance has complicated the issue. South Asia accounts for nearly 90 percent of cricket's global fan base, with India generating the bulk of the game's revenues through the financially powerful Board of Control for Cricket in India (BCCI).

The controversy has also taken on political overtones amid strained India-Bangladesh relations following political upheaval in Dhaka in 2024. Tensions escalated after Bangladeshi fast bowler Mustafizur Rahman was dropped from the IPL's Kolkata Knight Riders, sparking anger in Bangladesh.

Sports commentators say the episode highlights how deeply politics has become entwined with cricket administration. As preparations continue, the unfolding row threatens to dent India's carefully cultivated image as a reliable host for major global sporting events.

Rickelton, Stubbs drafted in as injury replacements for SA's T20 WC squad

JOHANNESBURG

Ryan Rickelton and Tristan Stubbs have been named as replacements for the injured Tony de Zorzi and Donovan Ferreira in South Africa's squad for next month's ICC Men's T20 World Cup, Cricket South Africa (CSA) confirmed.

De Zorzi has been ruled out after failing to recover in time from a right hamstring muscle tear sustained during South Africa's tour of India late last year. Ferreira, meanwhile, suffered a fracture of his left clavicle while playing in the ongoing SA20 league. Both players will also miss the Proteas' upcoming three-match home T20I series against the West Indies.

CSA said De Zorzi's rehabilitation had not progressed as expected, making his return for the T20I series and the World Cup unlikely. "Due to his unavailability for the series and the need for continued rehabilitation, he will miss the T20 World Cup," the board said in a statement posted on X.

Ferreira was injured during the SA20 match between Joburg Super Kings and Pretoria Capitals on January 17, further depleting South Africa's middle-order options ahead of the global tournament.

Rickelton, a left-handed batter, and power-hitter Stubbs have been included in the revised 15-player World Cup squad as like-for-like replacements. Both players have impressed in domestic and franchise cricket and are expected to add depth to South Africa's batting lineup.

The runners-up of the previous T20 World Cup are also monitoring the fitness of senior batter David Miller. Miller has been ruled out of the SA20 knockout matches after suffering an adductor muscle injury while representing Paarl Royals on January 19.

CSA confirmed that Rubin Hermann has been named as Miller's replacement for the T20I series against the West Indies. However, Miller's availability for the T20 World Cup will depend on the outcome of a fitness assessment closer to the tournament.

With injuries mounting, South Africa face a race against time to finalise a fully fit squad ahead of the marquee event.

Injuries force South Africa to revamp squad ahead of T20 World Cup.

Adar Poonawalla confirms strong interest in buying RCB, plans competitive bid

BENGALURU

Business tycoon and Serum Institute of India chief Adar Poonawalla has confirmed his interest in acquiring Indian Premier League (IPL) franchise Royal Challengers Bengaluru (RCB), stating that he plans to place a "strong and competitive bid" in the coming months.

Poonawalla ended weeks of speculation after posting a clear statement on X, following an earlier cryptic message that had fuelled rumours about his intentions. "Over the next few months, will be putting in a STRONG and COMPETITIVE bid for @RCBTweets, one of the best teams in the IPL," he wrote, making his interest public.

Talk of a possible sale of RCB first surfaced in June 2025, shortly after the franchise won its maiden IPL title, ending a 17-year wait. However, celebrations were marred by a tragic stampede outside the M Chinnaswamy Stadium in Bengaluru that claimed 12 lives, casting a shadow over the historic triumph. Former IPL chairman Lalit Modi later claimed that current owners Diageo Plc could be open to offloading the franchise. RCB's valuation surged following their title win, reportedly reaching around $269 million, helping them overtake Chennai Super Kings as the league's most valuable team.

With Virat Kohli as the long-standing face of the franchise, RCB remains one of the IPL's most high-profile and commercially attractive teams, boasting a massive fan base across the country.

RCB was originally owned by Vijay Mallya from the league's inception before Diageo acquired the franchise in 2016. While no official confirmation has come from Diageo regarding a sale, Poonawalla's public declaration has added momentum to the speculation.

Meanwhile, uncertainty continues over RCB's home venue for the upcoming season, starting March 26, with debates ongoing about a return to the Chinnaswamy Stadium despite appeals from Karnataka State Cricket Association officials.

Poonawalla's potential entry could mark a significant shift in IPL franchise ownership dynamics.

Young opener credits Rohit, Gambhir for fearless powerplay mindset and consistency

'I'm following Rohit Sharma's footsteps,' says ABHISHEK

NEW DELHI

India's swashbuckling opener Abhishek Sharma on Friday said he has modelled his aggressive T20I approach on the template set by former captain Rohit Sharma, a style he believes has helped him thrive at the international level.

Since making his T20I debut in July 2024, Abhishek's fearless batting in the powerplay has propelled him to the top of the ICC T20I batting rankings. In 34 matches so far, the 25-year-old has smashed two centuries and seven half-centuries, scoring 1,199 runs at a staggering strike rate of 190.92.

Abhishek acknowledged Rohit's influence on his game, particularly during the first six overs. "Rohit bhai has done a lot for the country. There was always pressure because of the starts he used to give in the powerplay," he said. "When I came into the team, the coach and captain wanted the same from me. I felt it suited my style because I love to attack from the first few balls."

Abhishek credited head coach Gautam Gambhir and captain Suryakumar Yadav for giving him clear role definition. "I wouldn't say I am fully mature yet, because there is always room to improve. But I know my job is to play aggressive cricket in the first six overs and set the tone for the team," he said.

With the T20 World Cup just a fortnight away, Abhishek said his preparations have been highly specific. He revealed that he focuses on practicing against bowlers who replicate the styles he expects to face during matches, including variations in swing and pace-off deliveries.

"I try to recreate match situations in the nets.

Inconsistent SABALENKA battles past Potapova to reach Aus Open fourth round

MELBOURNE

Top seed Aryna Sabalenka overcame patches of erratic play and stern resistance from Anastasia Potapova to advance to the fourth round of the Australian Open with a hard-fought 7-6 (4), 7-6 (7) victory on Friday.

Chasing her third title in four years at Melbourne Park, Sabalenka was tested throughout the third-round encounter, needing composure in key moments to prevail. The Belarusian, who won the Australian Open in 2023 and 2024 and finished runner-up last year to Madison Keys, showed resilience despite struggling to maintain consistency.

Sabalenka appeared in control late in the opening set when she led 6-5 and 40-0 on serve. However, Potapova saved all three set points to force a tiebreaker. Sabalenka surged to a 3-0 lead in the breaker before Potapova clawed her way back to level terms. The world No. 1 eventually sealed the set with a crisp backhand winner down the line off Potapova's second serve.

The second set followed a similar pattern of momentum swings. Potapova fell behind 4-0 but mounted an impressive comeback to draw level at 4-4, again pushing the set into a tiebreaker. The Russian-born Austrian had three set points in the breaker, only for Sabalenka to dig deep and close out the match under pressure.

"She played incredible tennis," Sabalenka said in her on-court interview. "I was always on the back foot. There are days when you just have to fight, and it was such a fight today."

Elsewhere in the women's draw, 17th-seeded Victoria Mboko advanced with a 7-6 (5), 5-7, 6-3 win over 14th seed Clara Tauson.

On the men's side, Daniil Medvedev rallied from two sets down to defeat Fabian Marozsan, while Tommy Paul progressed after Alejandro Davidovich retired. American youngster Learner Tien also reached the fourth round and will face Medvedev next.

Poor playing conditions force ISL clubs to scout alternative home venues

CHENNAI

With the Indian Super League (ISL) 2025-26 set to kick off on February 14, several clubs are scrambling to secure suitable home venues amid poor playing conditions and infrastructure challenges at existing stadiums.

While the season's start was confirmed after Union sports minister Mansukh Mandaviya's announcement and clubs agreed to participate, venue readiness has emerged as a major concern. Many ISL teams rely on public infrastructure, and delays in renovation work and scheduling conflicts with non-sporting events have pushed venue arrangements into uncertainty, also contributing to a delay in fixture announcements. Kerala Blasters have been forced to shift from their traditional home at the Jawaharlal Nehru Stadium in Kochi, which is currently undergoing renovation. The club will play all seven home matches at the EMS Stadium in Kozhikode, subject to final clearances. Although the venue has a seating capacity of around 35,000, it too requires urgent work after hosting the Indian Supercross Racing League final in December, which left the turf converted into a mud track. Kerala Football Association officials said renovation work is underway and the stadium is expected to be handed over by mid-February, though no fixed date has been confirmed. Cost and accessibility reportedly played a key role in choosing Kozhikode over Malappuram as an alternative venue.

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